



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

'Source': U.S. No Longer Insists on Targets

OW2012130093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—The United States has told Japan that it is no longer insisting on numerical targets for bilateral trade, brightening hopes for a new bilateral trade agreement by a February 11 deadline, a Japanese Government source said Monday [20 December].

"A clue to a solution to economic talks is now in sight," the source said in reference to the so-called framework talks, which cover trade in autos, auto parts, public procurements and insurance.

Washington had demanded that Tokyo set specific targets for reducing Japan's chronic trade surplus with the U.S., but Tokyo refused, saying such targets run counter to free trade.

Diplomats Comment on SDF Role in PKO

OW1912125193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT
19 Dec 93

[Text] New York, Dec. 19 KYODO—Legal constraints may block a proposed Japanese participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, since the operations may involve the use of force, diplomatic sources said Sunday [19 December].

The comments came three days after Yasushi Akashi, chief of the U.N. peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia, said he will ask the Japanese Government to send peacekeepers to the Balkan region.

The U.N. undersecretary general cited Macedonia as well as central and northern Croatia as potential locations where the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) could send peacekeepers even under the constraints of Japanese law. However, the diplomatic sources said Japan is reluctant to send peacekeepers with the absence of a multilateral agreement to seek a halt in hostilities in contrast to Cambodia, where U.N. peacekeepers were sent following the 1991 Paris peace accord.

Akashi said Japanese law "allows" Japanese peacekeepers to join the U.N. Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) in the region "in such logistics fields as medical service, transportation and communications." However, the diplomatic sources disputed Akashi's view, saying the Japanese Government has to analyze the situation to check whether a truce is really in place in the areas where Japanese participation is being requested.

In the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia bordering southern Serbia, a total of 1,000 peacekeepers are now deployed to prevent the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina from igniting ethnic uncertainties concerning Albanian minorities.

In northern and central Croatia, a cease-fire is in place in four regions where UNPROFOR forces are deployed, and UNPROFOR headquarters are in the Croatian capital of Zagreb.

The 26,000-member UNPROFOR was set up in 1992. Its duties include escorting truck convoys of humanitarian relief supplies to starving civilians in strife-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. The mission has so far resulted in the deaths of 59 UNPROFOR members.

Butrus-Ghali Arrives for Five-Day Visit

OW1812085293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived in Japan on Saturday [18 December] for a five-day visit, his second visit this year.

Butrus-Ghali is scheduled to hold talks Monday with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, whom he met in September at UN headquarters in New York, and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata.

Discussions are expected to focus on Japan's role in the United Nations and the issue of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program.

Butrus-Ghali, who last came to Japan in February, recently expressed personal support for Japan's quest for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

The UN chief is scheduled to visit South Korea on December 22 and then cross into North Korea through the demilitarized zone for talks in Pyongyang.

He will reportedly proceed to China for a one-day stay before returning to New York.

Butrus-Ghali said earlier this week he is going to North Korea on a fact-finding mission. He said he does not plan a mediating role in the crisis between Washington and Pyongyang over the North Korea's refusal to open nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Urge Active UNSC Campaign

OW2012133193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1319 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali called on Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Monday [20 December] to actively campaign for a permanent seat on the Security Council [SC], Japanese officials said. The U.N. chief, apparently aware of sensitivity within Japan to military participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations, said such participation is not a precondition for permanent membership of the council.

Butrus-Ghali also said Japan's permanent membership of the council would benefit the world body, the officials said after the working dinner hosted by Hosokawa.

Hosokawa told reporters after the dinner that Butrus-Ghali urged Tokyo to "aggressively" demonstrate its wish to win a permanent seat on the council. "I told him I was really grateful to him for his remarks," Hosokawa said.

Military Role Not 'Prerequisite'

OW2012145493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, dec. 20 KYODO—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali insisted Monday [20 December] that a military role would not be a prerequisite for Japan to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Foreign Ministry officials said. Butrus-Ghali made the remark during a working dinner with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at the state guesthouse, the officials said.

The U.N. chief pointed out that there seems to be a "misunderstanding" in Japan that military responsibility is an obligation for permanent members of the Security Council, they said. He was quoted as saying that participation in the decision-making on U.N. peace-keeping operations and actually to participate in the operations are separate issues.

Butrus-Ghali also offered his personal view that he thinks Japanese permanent membership of the Security Council would be beneficial for the world body, the officials said.

Hosokawa told reporters after the dinner that he appreciates the U.N. chief's encouragement to Japan to join the five permanent members—the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain. "I told him I was very grateful to him for his remarks," the premier said.

Butrus-Ghali also told Hosokawa that media in industrialized countries are paying too much attention to U.N. peacekeeping operations, particularly those in the former Yugoslavia and Somalia. Butrus-Ghali said that peacekeeping is only a part of U.N. operations and much of the world body's activities are in such fields as humanitarian assistance, economic development and the environment, they said.

Earlier in the day, he won a pledge from Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata to send a fact-finding mission to the former Yugoslavia early next year to study what contributions Japan might make there.

The mission will be headed by Shunji Yanai, director general of the ministry's Foreign Policy Bureau, ministry sources said.

Butrus-Ghali, who arrived in Tokyo on Saturday for a five-day working visit, also told Hosokawa he is visiting North Korea on his "personal initiative" and not on a mandate from the Security Council or at the urging of the United States. He described his visit there as a "goodwill" mission and said it is part of the U.N.'s preventive diplomacy, the officials said.

North Korea is under pressure to open two nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, outside its capital, to international inspection to clear up suspicions that it is trying to develop nuclear weapons. Hosokawa was quoted as telling Butrus-Ghali that Japan wants North Korea to dispel international suspicions on this matter.

Hosokawa also said Japan welcomes the U.N. chief's visit to North Korea, according to the officials.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, Japan's envoy to the U.N., Yoshio Hatano, and Yanai attended the working dinner, the officials said. The U.N. high commissioner for refugees, Sadako Ogata, who is accompanying the secretary general on his stay in Japan, also attended it, they said.

Discusses DPRK Issue With Hata

OW2012050193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0447 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Japan plans to send a fact-finding mission to the former Yugoslavia early next year to study the possible contributions Japan might make there, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Monday [20 December].

Hata also told UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali that Tokyo will send a foreign ministry official to join the UN Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) in Zagreb to assist Yasushi Akashi, the head of the UN peace-keeping operations, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Hata made the remarks in response to Butrus-Ghali's call for Japan to play a greater and "symbolic" international role, the officials said.

The UN chief hailed Japan's participation in UN peace-keeping operations in Cambodia and Mozambique, its dispatch of election observers to Angola, and its pledge of 200 million dollars over two years to help Palestinians, they said.

Butrus-Ghali was quoted as saying he understands Japan has legal restrictions concerning its participation in peacekeeping operations but that he hopes Japan can make efforts despite such constraints.

Hata replied that Japan wants to do its best within the limitations, the officials said.

Hata also told Butrus-Ghali that Japan has decided to additionally disburse 13.4 million dollars to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), bringing its total contribution to the UNHCR in 1993 to 119 million dollars, they said.

During an hourlong meeting, Butrus-Ghali also said he is visiting North Korea on his "personal initiative," not after obtaining a mandate from the UN Security Council or at the urging of the United States, and described his visit there as a "goodwill" mission.

He was quoted as saying he decided to go to South Korea and North Korea because the two are both member nations of the UN and because he wants to demonstrate that the world body has an interest not only in Europe and Africa but also in other parts of the world, including East Asia.

Butrus-Ghali added that he feels strong concern that the current standoff related to North Korea's alleged development of nuclear weapons could lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and he said he is prepared to play any role he can. He said he hopes to learn how a dialoge might be maintained between North Korea and the international community.

The UN chief told Hata that he sent a message in April to North Korean President Kim Il-song through Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk but has not received any response, the Japanese officials said.

Hata told Butrus-Ghali that Japan will make every diplomatic effort to help solve the North Korean nuclear issue. He asked the UN chief to relay Japan's message to the North Korean leadership that time is running out, they said.

North Korea has refused outside inspections of two secretive nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, outside of Pyongyang, despite repeated requests from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Butrus-Ghali pointed out the need to convey to North Korea "the same message through various different routes," according to the officials.

Speaks to Foreign Correspondents

OW2012074793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0718 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO— U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said Monday [20 December] he is optimistic that a negotiated settlement will be found to the brewing dispute over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program. "I am an optimist," Butrus-Ghali said at a luncheon meeting of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. "I believe that through negotiations, through continued dialogue, we will be able to find a solution to this problem."

Butrus-Ghali, who arrived in Japan on Saturday for a five-day working visit, plans to visit North Korea after a visit to South Korea.

He withheld comment on the prospect of sanctions being implemented against Pyongyang if it continues refusing to fully open its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The U.N. chief merely said that if negotiations fail, it will be up to the Security Council to decide what to do.

His remarks followed recent comments by U.S. officials that Washington will press for an economic embargo,

including an embargo on oil, if talks with North Korea fail to persuade it to comply with anti-nuclear weapons agreements.

Butrus-Ghali repeated remarks made earlier in the day to Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata that he will not be traveling to Pyongyang with any mandate from the Security Council. "We are acting in the framework of preventive diplomacy," he said. "It is a mission of goodwill and a mission of fact-finding to see what is the reality of the crisis and offer my services."

"I don't pretend to bring any kind of solution, but if they ask me to transmit a message or if the protagonists will propose to do anything, I am ready to do (that)," he said.

Butrus-Ghali was quoted as having told Hata that he sent a message in April to North Korean President Kim Il-song through Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk but has not received any response.

Japanese officials said Hata asked the U.N. chief to relay Japan's message to the North Korean leadership that time is running out.

Butrus-Ghali plans to travel from Seoul to Pyongyang overland by car via the truce village of Panmunjom. He will be first U.N. leader to visit North Korea in 14 years.

Meets With SDPJ Head Murayama

OW2012075093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0643 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO— The head of a key party in Japan's coalition government told U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Monday [20 December] that his party will do its best to help bring the North Korean nuclear issue to a negotiated settlement.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan, SDPJ], told Butrus-Ghali, "it is important to address the North Korean issue through talks rather than sanctions."

During the meeting at a Tokyo hotel, Butrus-Ghali said North Korea appears to have the illusion that it is confronted with an international conspiracy, SDP officials said.

The U.N. chief said he expects the SDP to help dispel this illusion and play a part in resolving the North Korean issue, they said.

North Korea is under pressure to open two nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, near its capital, to outside inspection to clear suspicions that it is trying to develop nuclear weapons.

On Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations abroad, Murayama said Japan will extend a helping hand in such campaigns "within the framework of the Constitution."

Earlier in the day, Butrus-Ghali met with Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who said Japan plans to send a fact-finding mission to the former Yugoslavia early next year to study ways it could contribute there.

Mexican President Salinas Arrives in Osaka

*OW1912092493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT
19 Dec 93*

[Text] Osaka, Dec. 19 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari arrived in Osaka Sunday [19 December] afternoon from China to begin a four-day visit which features talks with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and an audience with Emperor Akihito.

On Monday, Salinas will attend a breakfast meeting with top business leaders in the Kansai region in western Japan and hold talks with Osaka Gov. Kazuo Nakagawa.

He will open a Mexican consulate in Osaka and attend other functions before proceeding to Tokyo in the evening.

Salinas' talks with Japanese bankers on Tuesday morning will focus on Mexico's plans to liberalize foreign bank operations, officials said.

The Mexican leader will meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and hold talks with Hosokawa on the soon-to-be implemented North American Free Trade Agreement and other economic and political issues.

Salinas will call on Yohei Kono, president of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party, on Wednesday morning before concluding his Japan trip in the afternoon.

Attends Opening of Institute

*OW2012115893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT
20 Dec 93*

[Text] Kyoto, Dec. 20 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on Monday [20 December] attended the opening ceremony of an institute in Kyoto to study Mexican culture.

Instituto Cultural Mexico-Japon, attached to Kyoto University of foreign studies, will provide the latest Mexican scholarly books, journals and newspapers, university officials said.

The facility will also sponsor lectures, symposiums and exchanges of students and scholars, they said.

At the ceremony, Salinas expressed hope that close cultural exchanges between Japan and Mexico would benefit both countries.

The institute was established on the basis of his wish to promote cultural and educational exchanges, the officials said.

Salinas opened a Mexican consulate in Osaka before attending the ceremony in Kyoto. He later left for Tokyo.

The Mexican president arrived in Osaka on Sunday afternoon from China to begin a four-day visit. During his stay in Tokyo, Salinas is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Emperor Akihito.

Hata Welcomes Russia's Adoption of Constitution

*OW2012101293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT
20 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Japan on Monday [20 December] welcomed Russia's adoption of a new Constitution but reacted cautiously on the strong showing of conservative and ultrarightist forces in its parliamentary elections. Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said in a statement that Japan welcomes the fact that Russia adopted the new Constitution with the support of the public because it provides a basis for Russia's democratic reform.

Although official results have not yet been announced, the holding of the new parliamentary elections through democratic procedures was an "epoch-making" event, Hata said.

Hata, however, referred to the unexpectedly high support rate of conservative forces including the communists and ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party and said the trend shows that processes of democratization and shift toward a market-oriented economy are not easy.

Hata attributed the high support rate of the conservatives and extreme nationalists to the public's strong dissatisfaction with the current situation.

Japan strongly expects members of Russia's new parliament to "take responsible action" both domestically and internationally, the statement said.

Hata said Russia's shift toward a nation sharing common values as Japan—democracy and a market-oriented economy—is important for the international community. Japan's intention to provide "adequate assistance" for Russian reforms remains unchanged, the statement said.

Hosokawa Delays Europe Visit to Late Apr

*OW2012130593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT
20 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has postponed his planned visit to Germany, France and Italy in January due to his domestic political schedule, Foreign Ministry sources said Monday [20 December].

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata has also postponed his visit to Britain and the European Community headquarters in Brussels in January because of the extension of the extraordinary Diet session, according to the sources.

The session, which was due to end on December 15, was extended for 45 days until January 29 to further debate the government's package of political and electoral reform bills, on which Hosokawa has staked his political future.

The sources said the government is considering having Hosokawa visit the three European countries before the summit of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries in Naples, Italy, in July. The remarks were taken as suggesting that the government plans to realize Hosokawa's visit to Europe between late April and early May, a period studded with national holidays in Japan.

Funds Offered for Research in Eastern Germany

OW1912084793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT
19 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Japan will support fledgling Japan research centers in Germany's economically weak eastern states, formerly communist East Germany, with a total of 23 million yen, Foreign Ministry officials said Sunday [19 December].

The funds will be used to support five projects or facilities as part of a program to strengthen cultural exchange between Japan and European countries launched during the current fiscal year.

In response to requests from Germany, the Japanese Studies Department at Berlin's renowned Humboldt University will get urgently needed books for its library and computer equipment.

The University of Jena in the state of Thuringia will be furnished with teaching materials and a library for its newly established Japan Research Center, which will begin work next year, to help it develop into Eastern Germany's second center for Japanese studies in addition to Humboldt University.

The cultural aid will also be used to dispatch experts to a museum in the State of Saxony to survey the condition of a number of Japanese art works there.

After German reunification, research and teaching at universities in Eastern Germany were hard hit by a lack of financial resources.

Japan has received similar requests for aid in the cultural field from Russia, Poland and other countries of the former Soviet bloc.

Jordanian Prime Minister Meets With Hosokawa

OW1712035093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT
17 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Friday [17 December] that Japan will do its utmost to help Jordan tackle debt and refugee problems, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Hosokawa pledged Japan's support in a brief meeting with Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali the officials said.

Majali was quoted as telling Hosokawa that his country is suffering from the aftereffects of the Persian Gulf war and is facing problems such as debt and refugees. He pointed out the need to boost Jordan's economy to stabilize the Middle East region, saying unless that is done, the situation in the region will become even more dangerous than just after the war because of high expectations for peace in the region, the officials said.

The Jordanian premier thanked the Japanese Government for its support during the Persian Gulf war, they said.

Japan-Mobil Gets Right To Prospect Off SRV

OW2012133693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—A Japanese-U.S. team has acquired the right to explore and develop an oil concession off southern Vietnam, the Japan Petroleum Exploration Corp. (JAPEX), a member of the consortium, said Monday [20 December].

The consortium, composed of three Japanese partners—JAPEX, Indonesia Petroleum Ltd. and Nissho Iwai Corp.—and Mobil Oil Corp., has signed letters of intent with the Vietnam National Petroleum Corp. (Petrovietnam) on production sharing, JAPEX officials said.

The team will sign a production sharing contract with Petrovietnam in January.

Under the contract, the consortium will prospect for and develop oil resources in Thanh Long block in an area of 408 square kilometers, about 400 kilometers southeast of Ho Chi Minh City, the officials said.

The concession is located about 30 kilometers east of Dai Hung oil field.

The four partners will establish a joint development company in Tokyo late in January, and the company will start drilling exploratory wells in June.

With the United States still continuing economic sanctions against Vietnam, Mobil has won U.S. Government permission to explore for oil in the concession as a member of the consortium pending completion of drilling appraisal wells, the officials said.

If the sanctions are still valid when the consortium starts production, Mobil will withdraw from the team, they said.

Spinners Accuse Pakistan of Dumping Yarn

OW2012120093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—A trade group of Japanese spinners on Monday [20 December] accused Pakistan of dumping cotton yarn at below cost and called for offsetting duties on the imports.

In a petition filed with the Finance Ministry, the Japan Spinners' Association said cotton yarn producers in Pakistan exported their products to Japan at as much as 30 percent less than domestic prices.

The antidumping petition, the fifth filed by Japanese concerns and the third by the textile industry, takes aim at No. 20 count cotton yarn widely used in making towels.

According to the association, imports of Pakistani cotton yarn have surged since the 1980s, accounting for 82 percent of the product sold on the Japanese market in fiscal 1992.

The Finance Ministry is expected to make a decision within two months on whether to open a probe into the case or reject the petition. If the ministry decides to investigate the case, it will have to rule within a year whether the imports are sold at below cost.

In the past four antidumping cases, only one ended with a decision to impose antidumping duties. In the other three cases, the petitioners withdrew their complaints after the exporting countries set "voluntary restraints" on exports.

Japanese textile companies have been under pressure from low-priced imports from Asian countries. In the case of cotton products, imports account for 70 percent of domestic consumption.

Tokyo Donates Aid to Refugees From Burundi

OW1712075593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT
17 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 17 KYODO—Japan will give 3 million dollars to assist United Nations relief activities for refugees from Burundi and internally displaced people following a military coup there in October, the Foreign Ministry said Friday [17 December]. Of the total, 2 million dollars will go to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and 1 million dollars to the World Food Program (WFP), the ministry said.

The aid for the UNHCR will be used for such relief measures as the procurement and distribution of household goods and shelters.

The money for the WFP will be used to cover the cost of feeding refugees and internally displaced people, it said.

The failed coup on October 21 sparked ethnic strife and massacres in many parts of the country, and some 700,000 refugees fled into the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. There are about 127,000 displaced people still inside Burundi, the ministry said.

President Melchior Ndadaye and several cabinet ministers were killed in the coup.

Ozawa, Kono on Dissolution of Lower House

OW1812131993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Shinseito co-leader Ichiro Ozawa, a powerful figure in the seven-party coalition government led by prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, hinted Saturday [18 December] at the possibility of a dissolution of the House of Representatives.

Speaking in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, Ozawa said, "we do not know when an election will be held. The lower house, in particular, is always like a battlefield."

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono and LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori made similar predictions during their separate appearances in Hiroshima and Hokkaido Prefectures, respectively.

The lower house could be dissolved if Hosokawa fails to enact political reform bills in the current Diet session sitting until January 29, because of his election pledge to carry out political reform or resign.

The political reform bills have already passed the powerful lower house and been sent to the House of Councillors where discussion on them has been pending after the LDP opposed their debate, saying measures to stimulate the economy should be discussed prior to the reform package.

The ruling parties have succeeded in extending the current Diet session for 45 days beyond the originally scheduled Wednesday close, intending to ensure passage of the government-sponsored reform package in the upper house.

Kono, speaking in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, suggested a lower house dissolution may stem from Hosokawa's alleged bungling of economic policies.

Responding to a question from the audience about the possibility of a lower house dissolution and subsequent general election, Kono said, "(the economy) has deteriorated a good deal. There will surely be discussion whether we should leave the situation as it is."

"I expect a power shift next year. It is Prime Minister Hosokawa who would decide on a (lower house) dissolution. But we cannot shy away from it," he said.

In August the LDP gave up its 38-year rule to the coalition government after losing a majority in the lower house in the July general election.

Kono also criticized Hosokawa for his postponement of the drafting of the 1994 budget to next year, saying that everybody had hoped the budget would be fixed by yearend.

"(The delay) will surely have ill effects on the economy," he said.

Ozawa said in Naha that the economy will be revitalized by a show of political vision toward the 21st century, not by mere financial assistance.

"(Adding) public works of 1 or 2 trillion yen will not clinch (recovery of) the economy," he said, noting that a further supplementary budget is said to be needed to restore the economy.

In Asahikawa, Hokkaido, Mori hinted that the next general election might be held after some shocking incident in politics, in a context that also implied a lower house dissolution.

Takemura: No Diet Dissolution Plan

OW2012032793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has no plan to dissolve the House of Representatives for a snap election despite grim prospects for his proposed political reforms, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Monday [20 December].

"At least, the government should not mention the dissolution, and the prime minister also must have no plan concerning the dissolution," the top government spokesman told a news conference.

Takemura's comment comes at a time when speculation is spreading that Hosokawa will dissolve the lower house for a general election if he fails to push political reform bills into law during the current Diet session, which closes January 29.

Hosokawa, upon taking office in August, vowed he would take responsibility if he failed to achieve political reform by year's end, which suggests he might now choose either to resign or call a snap general election.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, the largest force in the ruling coalition, voiced his opposition Sunday to the possible dissolution of the lower house, saying such a move would threaten the recovery of the stagnant Japanese economy.

Ichiro Ozawa, a co-leader of the ruling coalition member Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), predicted Saturday the possibility of a lower house dissolution if Hosokawa fails to achieve reform during the current Diet sitting.

A government-sponsored political reform package cleared the lower house in mid-November, but subsequent deliberations in the House of Councillors have been delayed, due partly to discussion on the second supplementary budget for fiscal 1993, which passed through the Diet last Wednesday.

Ozawa To Rest From Politics Due to 'Fatigue'

OW2012140493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, co-leader of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], and an influential figure in the coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, issued a statement Monday [20 December] saying he will take a rest from politics due to physical and mental fatigue.

Ozawa's statement, issued by his party, came amid some speculation in the media and the political world that he is pretending to be ill in order to prepare for a possible general election.

Ozawa said in the statement that for the time being he will not attend meetings of chief policy-makers of the seven ruling coalition parties or meetings between the party leaders and top government officials.

Kozo Watanabe, acting co-leader of Shinseito, one of the coalition partners, suggested Ozawa is resting for health reasons, saying he may have a medical checkup.

Hosokawa also told reporters he has heard that Ozawa will be having a medical checkup, while Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Ozawa is likely to be admitted to hospital.

Late in June 1991, Ozawa was hospitalized for angina. He received treatment for about one and a half months before resuming his post as secretary general of the then ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

There is speculation, however, that Ozawa is putting aside Diet business in order to try to consolidate the party's ties with voters to win the next general election.

Even some Shinseito members, on condition of anonymity, have said they think Ozawa is acting selfishly.

Ozawa was instrumental in the formation of the coalition government in August after the LDP lost its majority in the House of Representatives in the July 18 election.

Ozawa and dozens of his former LDP colleagues formed Shinseito in late June after defecting from the LDP, which subsequently lost its 38-year grip on power in August.

Hosokawa Wants Reform Debate Cleared Quickly

OW2012062993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0618 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa renewed his call Monday [20 December] for an early conclusion to the political reform debate to make way for tackling urgent economic matters, a government spokesman said. The premier made the remark at a meeting of leaders of the government and the ruling coalition parties, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Hatoyama said at a news conference.

Hosokawa noted the importance to achieve political reform as early as possible so as to focus full attention on discussion of a third supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 and the fiscal 1994 national budget, Hatoyama said.

Hosokawa had set a deadline of getting the government's four political reform bills through the Diet by the end of this year but that target is now virtually impossible to achieve. Now the coalition aims to pass the reform bills during the current extraordinary Diet session, which closes January 29.

The government-sponsored political reform package cleared the House of Representatives in mid-November, but progress on it in the House of Councillors was delayed by deliberations on the second extra budget for fiscal 1993, which was enacted last Wednesday. The reform package is designed to introduce single-seat electoral districts combined with proportional representation in general elections for the lower house and to tighten curbs on political funding.

MITI Official Rejects Resignation Call

OW1912015693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT
19 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—A high-ranking official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] on Saturday [18 December] night rejected the MITI minister's call for his resignation over personnel affairs within the ministry.

Masahisa Naito, head of the MITI Industrial Policy Bureau, said, "I will not resign. I will complain to the national personnel authority if I am dismissed on the basis of the national civil service law."

He said if he resigns under the pressure from the minister, it will set a bad example of political interference in the administration and that national policies should not be influenced by the personality of a minister.

MITI Minister Hiroshi Kumagai urged Naito on Thursday to resign from his post, accusing him of breaking with custom in promoting Yasufumi Tanahashi, then a ministry official, before he quit the ministry to run in a lower house election in July.

Tanahashi, a son of former MITI Vice Minister Yuji Tanahashi, ran in the election in a constituency in Gifu Prefecture but lost.

Ministry sources said top MITI officials have divided opinions on the minister's call for Naito's resignation and MITI Vice Minister Hideaki Kumano has apparently told Naito of his view that he ought to resign in view of the criticism of him in the ministry.

Other ministry officials have encouraged Naito not to resign under the minister's pressure, the sources said.

New-Job Guidelines for Retired Top Officials

OW1912124293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT
19 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Top-ranking officials of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government have been assured in advance of high-level income jobs after their retirement, it was learned Sunday [19 December].

Under in-house guidelines drawn up five years ago, such high-ranking officials become executives at some of the Metropolitan Government's 70-odd auxiliary organizations at salaries commensurate with their preretirement pay, informed sources revealed.

The ex-bureaucrats keep their posts until they turn 66, six years after their official retirement, and earn a maximum annual income of about 20 million yen, including 1.01 million yen monthly pay at the most. Such appointment of government officials to high positions in private or semiprivate organizations is called "amakudari," sometimes translated as "golden parachutist." It reflects a former bureaucrat's new "golden" salary and benefits.

Salary tables in the metropolitan government's guidelines are split into two tables, A and B, with regard to the capital and scope of business of the organizations concerned and are modeled on brackets set for specific jobs at the bureau chief level, such as vice governor. The guidelines show that salaries for the after-retirement jobs rise in line with hikes for the top posts in the Metropolitan Government.

In the guidelines for the current fiscal year ending in March, the top-paying job at 1.01 million yen per month is the chairmanship of a board of directors or presidency of an A-rank organization. The post usually goes to a retired vice governor of the Metropolitan Government.

A former bureau chief will get a monthly salary of 860,000 yen as vice chairman of the board of directors in an A-rank organization or as chairman of the board of directors in a B-rank body.

About 20 top bureaucrats reach retirement age each year, the sources said.

Heads of general affairs departments and other top department chiefs are promoted to bureau chief-level

"directors" on the eve of their retirement to secure them higher salaries when they become executives of affiliated organizations, they said.

Susumu Kimiya, head of the personnel division of the Metropolitan Government, denied the guidelines are aimed at securing high income after retirement, but admitted the government set such guidelines in written form five years ago.

The guidelines are designed only to decide an estimated upper limit of income for such senior officials at their after-retirement posts and prevent them from receiving salaries that are too high or staying in their new posts too long, Kimiya said.

Contractors' Organization Names New Chairman

*OW2012081593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0723 GMT
20 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Japan's top contractors' federation on Monday [20 December] named a new chairman to succeed Shimizu Corp.'s Teruzo Yoshino, who resigned in September after being arrested on suspicion of bribery.

The Japan Federation of Construction Contractors (Nikkenren) named Kenji Maeda, president of medium-sized Contractor Maeda Corp., to fill the post which has been vacant since Yoshino resigned.

Maeda's appointment will be formalized at the federation's general meeting on December 27.

Nikkenren wanted to name a new chairman within this year because the United States has said in construction trade talks with Japan that it would take retaliatory measures if Japan does not do something to open its construction market more by January 20.

Nikkenren officials said Maeda, 54, is one of the young leaders who would be capable of revamping Japan's construction industry.

A series of bribery cases has rocked the construction industry this year, with a number of top executives arrested.

Among them was Yoshino, who was also chairman of Shimizu, the nation's largest construction firm. He was arrested on suspicion of giving a former Ibaraki governor a bribe of 10 million yen last year.

With the new chairman, Nikkenren will create "corporate ethics guidelines" for its members as early as possible, as it was told to do by the Construction Ministry, the officials said.

Hosokawa Drops Drafting Budget by Year-End

*OW1712144693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1429 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa decided Friday [17 December] to put off the drafting of the fiscal 1994 budget until after the New Year, sources in the ruling coalition parties said. He made the decision because the coalition government remained split over whether to form the budget by yearend, the sources said.

Hosokawa informed cabinet ministers of the decision by telephone, they said.

The coalition parties earlier in the day left the decision on the issue to Hosokawa's discretion.

The sources said a series of top-level meetings held by the government and ruling parties Friday failed to produce agreement on the matter. They said Hosokawa favored carrying the work over into next year so as to give top priority to pending political reforms and other key issues, including a revision of the tax system.

Social Democratic and Democratic Socialist Parties in the governing coalition strongly demanded that the government formulate the draft budget by the end of December, while Komeito called for delaying the work until early next year, they said. Representatives of the ruling parties failed to iron out the differences, they said.

Business organizations have urged the government to compile a draft budget within this year in view of the protracted recession. Hosokawa told an executive meeting of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) that the government will do its best to draft the budget within this year.

The prime minister was quoted as telling cabinet ministers he tried to persuade the Finance Ministry to draft the budget by the end of the year but that the ministry said the schedule is too tight to do so.

The coalition government remained divided over whether to raise the consumption tax rate from the present 3 percent to secure financial sources for a planned income tax cut, the sources said.

Now that Hosokawa has made up his mind to postpone the drafting of the fiscal 1994 budget, the government is expected to formulate a third supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 to shore up the stagnant economy.

The second supplementary budget, worth 708.7 billion yen, was passed by the Diet only last Wednesday. It is aimed primarily at financing a package of pump-priming measures adopted in September.

Finance Ministry officials believe the fiscal 1994 budget will be enacted around May or June, making it necessary to compile a provisional budget for the next fiscal year.

The government and ruling coalition parties seem ready to come up with a fresh stimulative package as early as next week.

The package is expected to call for boosting public works spending by 1 to 2 trillion yen.

The government intends to submit a third supplementary budget plan to finance the pump-priming package to the Diet in mid-January so that final approval can be given by the end of January, the sources said.

Hashimoto Criticizes Government for Budget Delay

OW1812002893 Tokyo KYODO in English 2332 GMT
17 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—A senior member of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) accused the government of being irresponsible late Friday [17 December] for its decision to delay drafting of the budget for fiscal 1994, starting next April 1.

Following the government's announcement of the delay, Ryutaro Hashimoto, chairman of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council, asked it to reverse the decision and again urged it to draw up the budget plan within the year.

Hashimoto said, "by carrying over the budget work, the government has to formulate an additional supplementary budget. The postponement may seriously affect business conditions."

Hashimoto added, "I cannot agree with the government policy at a time when there are fears that the Japanese economy will hold up recovery of the international economy."

Earlier the same day Hashimoto visited Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to press for the draft to be done by the year-end.

MOF Wants To Cut Local Allocations

OW1812054193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0516 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—The Finance Ministry [MOF] is seeking a 500 billion yen cut in allocations of tax money to municipal authorities in the budget for fiscal 1994, starting next April 1, amid a projected shortfall in revenues, ministry sources said Saturday [18 December].

It would be the fourth consecutive year in which the central government has held back part of the money, during which it has so far lopped 1.65 trillion yen off the allocations.

The sources said the government is expected to have a revenue shortfall of 5.5 trillion yen in fiscal 1993, and cannot expect a recovery in tax revenues amid the recession.

They also said municipal governments bear a comparatively smaller debt burden of 88 trillion yen, compared with the central government's expected total of 188 trillion yen by the end of March. But the home affairs ministry argues that the municipal authorities are in an equally difficult position.

Ministry officials say local tax revenues are forecast to sink by 1.4 trillion yen in the current fiscal year.

They add that the pain of the burden may be even greater for the local administrations than for the central government, since the maturity periods of their debts average 16 to 17 years, compared with 60 years for the central government.

Official: Ministry To Watch Stock Prices

OW2012112393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito acknowledged Monday [20 December] that the stock market's weakness was triggered by economic uncertainties but gave no timetable for a new stimulus package.

"We will watch stock prices with serious interest," Saito told a regular press meeting.

The stock market fell back Monday in extremely thin trading.

Saito acknowledged the "lack of buyers and thin volume" stemmed from "various uncertainties."

But he said the ministry is in the "stage to start sorting out what can be done and can't be done" for additional economic measures decided by the government.

"There is no image yet," he said.

Saito said he had not heard anything about the reported remarks by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takei-mura calling for an outline at least of the new package as early as possible.

The top priority, Saito said, is for "steadfast implementation" of the second extra budget just enacted at the Diet last week.

He added that formation of a third supplementary budget to finance the new package is "impossible within the year."

Saito also indicated that tax cuts will not be included in the package, saying "it's difficult."

Wants Another JR Firm Shares Listed

OW2012120493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—The Transport Ministry wants to see shares in one more Japan Railways

Group (JR) company listed on stock exchanges in the second half of fiscal 1994, a top ministry official said Monday [20 December].

At present only East Japan Railway Co. (JR East) is listed, but the ministry had been considering offering shares of two other JR firms—Central Japan Railway Co. (JR Tokai) and West Japan Railway Co. (JR West)—to the public in the new fiscal year starting next April 1.

Vice Transport Minister Michihiko Matsuo told a news conference, "because the listing of shares in Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) was delayed until next fiscal year, it is difficult to list shares of the two companies at the same time. But we want to list shares of one company in the second half."

The Finance Ministry announced last Friday a decision to postpone launching government-held JT shares on the market, initially slated for the current fiscal year, until next fiscal year in view of the weakness of the stock market.

JR Tokai and JR West are two of the seven privatized railroad firms established when Japanese National Railways was privatized in 1987. JNR Settlement Corp. still holds shares of the JR companies, although it sold half its JR East shares to the public last October.

Imported Car Sales Up After Two-Year Fall

OW2012041593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—Japan's sales of imported cars this year are likely to post the first upturn in three years, increasing a firm 7.5 percent from a year earlier, an industry group reported Monday [20 December].

The Japan Automobile Importers Association estimated 1993 foreign car sales at 195,000 units, compared with 181,417 units reported a year before.

The 7.5 percent increase follows an 8.0 percent decline in 1992 and an 11.1 percent drop in 1991. Prior to 1991, imported car sales moved above the year-earlier levels for seven consecutive years.

The association said in a report that the first half of the year saw 96,026 unit sales, up 12.8 percent over a year earlier, and projected second-half sales at 99,000 units, a 2.8 percent rise.

It attributed the brisk sales chiefly to falling prices due to the strong yen, lower interest rates, and strenuous marketing efforts by makers and dealers.

For the coming year, the association expected a less dramatic increase in sales, totalling about 200,000 units, or 2.6 percent above the estimated sales for 1993.

It said the continued slump in the domestic economy will put some brake on demand for foreign sport utility

vehicles and Japanese cars made overseas. Strong demand for those cars have been the chief driving force behind the 1993 upswing.

North Korea

Sources: DPRK May Have Several Nuclear Bombs

HK1912030093 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA SUNDAY MORNING POST in English 19 Dec 93 pp 1, 9

[“Exclusive” by Peter Seidlitz in Beijing: “Nuclear Threat Increases”]

[Text] North Korea has not one, but probably several atomic bombs and the vehicles to launch them, according to top Western diplomatic sources who have just returned from Pyongyang. The chilling assessment comes from two high-ranking Beijing-based European diplomats who have sent alarming reports to their governments following the secret fact-finding mission.

One of the envoys, an ambassador, writes in his report: “North Korea has, in our opinion, the full capacity to enrich natural uranium and graphite of North Korean origin and has built several kilo-sized bombs. We established as well that testing sites exist.”

The diplomats had top-level discussions and were met by Kim Chong-il, the 51-year-old heir-apparent to “great Leader” Kim Il-song. They expressed to him their concern about the danger North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme poses for world peace.

The North Koreans prompted speculation that they were acquiring a nuclear capability last March when they withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and refused further inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Two meetings between North Korean and American officials last month failed to alter the situation. It was then that U.S. President Bill Clinton warned Pyongyang it would not “be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb” and urged them to “crawl back off the ledge”.

In recent weeks, the Central Intelligence Agency said North Korea might have enough weapons-grade plutonium for “one or two” bombs...but that assessment seems well short of the mark, according to the European envoys.

During their visit, they concluded that North Korea, which originally received help from Soviet nuclear scientists, had perfected the complicated ignition devices needed to explode an atomic bomb. They were also certain the Koreans had adapted short-range Scud-B Soviet missiles for use as launch vehicles. They are producing a Korean version of the improved Scud-C, which they have named Nodong-1.

The Nodong-1 has been tested over 650 kilometres but can deliver conventional or atomic bombs over 1,000

kilometres—meaning most major South Korea and Japanese cities would be just 10 minutes away.

North Korea has now around 120 Nodong-1 rockets, some of which have been secretly exported to Iran. There are secret testing and weapons development programmes between Iran and North Korea. American military sources believe that Iran has provided nuclear technology that North Korea has been unable to acquire elsewhere.

The Koreans have also acquired mobile launching vehicles, according to sources. The Nodong-1 are transported on the chassis of IVECO heavy duty trucks made by Fiat in Italy. The Salzburg-based Austrian company Palfinger Ag, which makes special cranes designed for trucks, has imported crane equipment for this purpose. The cranes can lift the remodelled Scuds on the trucks and move them in seconds from horizontal transport into vertical launching positions.

The mobile launching vehicles are difficult to track by spy satellites and therefore difficult to destroy by aircraft or cruise missiles—as the allies found when chasing Iraqi Scuds during the Gulf War. It is believed 30 trucks have been fitted out as mobile launching pads.

A Beijing-based military attache said yesterday: "There is ample evidence of the nuclear programme of North Korea coming from U.S. intelligence. The only question is whether North Korea has managed to change the original crude structure into a bomb and if it can be carried by a rocket. But even that doesn't matter. North Korea can drop the bomb by plane or deliver it by boat if it wants."

North Korea has also tested the reliability and predictability of the ignition and explosion devices of their bombs. The secret crater-like test site is on the banks of the Kuryong River—very close to Korea's main nuclear research facility at Yongbyon.

North Korea has imported from Europe extensive high-explosive testing material and neutron initiator materials, such as polonium 210 and tritium, sources said.

The device tested was, according to these experts, the most important evidence that nuclear bombs have been produced. North Korea, like Iraq, has escaped the export monitoring of special testing and diagnostic equipment and the necessary high speed electronic components. It has yet to perform a full-scale nuclear test, but because of sophisticated detection equipment employed by the West, it would not be practical for reasons of secrecy.

However, heat output measurements of North Korea's nuclear reactor have given some estimates of the amount of plutonium they have produced—believed to be enough for at least half a dozen bombs.

U.S. Said To Stage 'Air War Exercise'

SK1912084193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807
GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists staged a provocative joint air war exercise in the skies above Oeyon Islet, Tanyang, Pyongchang and Yongwol, South Korea, on December 16 and 17 against the North with the mobilization of various types of fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes, more than 350 in all, belonging to the Japan-based flying corps, the U.S. Airforce in South Korea and the South Korean puppet Airforce, according to military sources.

On the 17th, a U.S. RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane based in Okinawa flew above Tokjok Islet, Pochon, Inje and Sokcho, South Korea, for an aerial photographing and electronic espionage on the whole areas of the northern half of Korea.

This is a premeditated provocation aimed at rendering the situation of the Korean peninsula all the more strained.

UN Delegate Delivers Speech on Human Rights

SK2012051793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442
GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—The delegate of the DPRK made a speech on the human rights problem at the third committee of the UN General Assembly on December 3.

He said the problem of human rights must not be used for a political purpose in any case, if it is to be solved in a fair and objective way. "The principle of respect for state sovereignty must be strictly observed and application of double standard must not be allowed," he added.

He said a group of countries must abandon their attempt to set up a new organization or post which might be used in putting pressure or forcing its political view upon sovereign states or in interfering in others' internal affairs under the pretext of "protection of human rights".

"If human rights are to be fully guaranteed on a national and international scale," he said, "human rights and basic freedom must not only be defined and protected by law but also be exercised and enjoyed practically. International steps must be taken for the developing countries to exercise their rights to development."

He said that priority in the solution of the human rights issue must be decided in conformity with the characteristics of each country and each region.

"For a satisfactory solution of this issue," he said, "a genuine democracy must be achieved on a national and international scale."

Stressing that it is a main factor in preventing repeated violations of human rights to clear away the past crimes against humanity, he said:

"It is widely known a fact that old Japan drafted nearly 200,000 Korean women as 'comfort women for the army' and walked away by force over six million Koreans. But the Japanese government is still making desperate efforts to conceal the crimes."

"The DPRK delegation urges Japan to make an overall investigation into the truth behind the case of the 'comfort women for the army' and open its results to the public, subject those responsible for it to a criminal punishment, make an official apology and take a sincere measure for compensation," the delegate said.

He said the United Nations should play an adequate role so that Japan may fully liquidate its past crimes in the interests of the world community.

Daily Criticizes Replacement of ROK Premier

SK1812103893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024
GMT 18 Dec 93

[“Traitor’s Measure To Sidestep Blame”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam dismissed Hwang In-song from the post of “prime minister” pinning on him the blame for the treacherous opening of South Korea’s rice market and put Yi Hoi-chang, “chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection,” in his place.

NODONG SINMUN today brands the “replacement of the prime minister” as a mockery of the people and another crafty trick of the traitor Kim Yong-sam to sidestep the blame for the treacherous rice market opening cutting the lifeline of six million farmers and bringing agriculture and the economy as a whole to a bankruptcy, full the resolute opposition of the masses against rice market opening and ensure “government stability.”

The news analyst says:

Kim Yong-sam the puppet victimized his underling in his stead for the treacherous opening of the rice market. This shows once again that he is a political impostor and human scum of moral inferiority who stoops to any infamy, if it is to stay in power.

The replacement of the “prime minister” is a prelude to an undertaking for building up the puppet administration and the ruling party with his confidents and committing treacheries more freely.

Whatever he may do, it is too late for him to get out of the “government” crisis. The South Korean people brand Kim Yong-sam as a traitor equal to the “five traitors of 1905” who sold Korea off to Japan.

What is waiting for the traitor Kim Yong-sam is judgement by history and the people.

ROK Premier’s Remarks on Reform Criticized

SK1912061293 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Commentary by Chong Pong-kil: “Stooge’s Gibberish About Reform”]

[Text] According to a radio report from Seoul, Yi Hoe-chang, the new South Korean prime minister, held a news conference and babbled about the will for reform and its powerful implementation. He also voiced gibberish about the so-called economic revitalization and eradication of corruption and irregularities.

His remarks are a trick to give an impression that he would carry out something for the South Korean people. These remarks cannot but be called ridiculous. As everyone knows, traitor Kim Yong-sam and Hwang In-song, former puppet prime minister, loudly talked about reform, economic revitalization, and eradication of corruption and irregularities whenever they found opportunities to open their mouths.

Although nearly one year has passed since the civilian government was inaugurated, nothing has changed in South Korea. Although they talked about reform, fascist evil laws, including the National Security Law, and oppressive organizations, including the Agency for National Security Planning—which are outdated remnants of the era of the military fascist rule of the Fifth and Sixth Republics—still exist intact. Rather, they are being reinforced with each passing day.

Overall the South Korean economy is sinking in a bog, apart from being revitalized, and the people’s living standard has been further reduced to poverty.

What makes matters worse is the opening of the rice market decided recently by the Kim Yong-sam group. As a result, 6 million farmers and their farms are on the verge of collapse, and catastrophic crisis in the South Korean economy is being further accelerated.

As for corruption and irregularities, they were not eliminated, but are being committed more viciously and in an intellectual manner.

All this is the result of the Kim Yong-sam group’s antipopular rule. While talking about reform, the rascals have revived the military fascist dictatorship, instead of eradicating it, and subordinated the economy to outside forces, thus reducing it to a colonial subcontract economy. Moreover, the Kim Yong-sam group protected and supported corruption and irregularities of the privileged class, thus further bolstering them.

While working as director of the Board of Audit and Inspection, Yi Hoe-chang claimed that he carried out special inspection activities for irregularities involved in

the Yulgok Project [ROK weapons procurement program] and in the incident of the Peace Dam by hanging out the signboard of audit and inspection without any sanctuary. However, traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, the chief criminals in these cases, are still alive triumphantly without anything to fear, and only a few minor offenders were punished in a bid to deceive the people.

Kwon Yong-hae, one of the chief criminals in the Yulgok Project, is currently in the position of puppet defense minister and is perpetrating treachery even today.

Therefore, the South Korean people describe the reform, which the Kim Yong-sam group is loudly talking about, as Kaepan [confusion] and New Korea as Swin Hanguk [rotten Korea].

Corruption and irregularities, which created a great stir in South Korea, have ended in smoke at the directive of traitor Kim Yong-sam. Yi Hoe-chang faithfully executed the directive of the puppet traitor and thus won his favor. For this, Yi Hoe-chang was appointed to the position of puppet prime minister.

It is clear to everyone that this man cannot do anything for the benefit of the people. What he can do is the more faithful execution of nation-selling treachery of traitor Kim Yong-sam as his stooge. The new puppet prime minister is, in actuality, a remnant of the Sixth Republic and a fascist gangster who carried out brisk activities within the oppressive organization of the puppets. He is an ignoramus without any knowledge of the economy.

As soon as Yi Hoe-chang came to the post of puppet prime minister, opposition figures raised voices of criticism, noting that he is not adequate for the position in view of his practical inability to cope with the international economic war. This is not an accident.

Just as an old proverb saying—only wormwood stalks grow from the plot of wormwood—it is quite natural that a fascist gangster from the Kim Yong-sam hooligans rose to the post of puppet prime minister.

Facts show that as long as traitor Kim Yong-sam remains in power, nothing will change in South Korea, but the strengthening of the fascist oppressive system. Even if the Kim Yong-sam group carries out a farce of a cabinet reshuffle in an attempt to appease the people's resistance and runs amok to win popularity, no one would be deceived by them.

Traitor Kim Yong-sam should discard a foolish deceitful drama, the inside facts of which were already exposed, and should immediately step down from power according to the people's demand.

Kim Yong-sam Accused of 'High Treason' on Rice
SK1812044893 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Unpardonable High Treason"]

[Text] Regardless of strong opposition and denunciation from the South Korean farmers and people from all walks of life, the Kim Yong-sam nation-selling clique, ended up concluding an agreement with the United States to open its rice market.

In the final negotiations between the puppet minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and the U.S. secretary of agriculture on 13 December in Geneva, a package deal was settled regarding the issue of opening the market for 15 agricultural products including rice. The following day, the puppet deputy prime minister appeared before reporters and officially announced the final draft of the agreement on the opening of agricultural products. He said that in this process the finishing touches were made on negotiations for agricultural products in the Uruguay Round negotiations. To soothe the seething public opinion opposing this, the rascal babbled that they had received minimum market opening, special treatment, and so on. However, this can by no means rationalize their treacherous act.

The issue of opening the rice market in South Korea is a life and death issue directly related to the farmers' livelihood, the fate of farming, and the people's lives. If foreign rice is brought in because of the opening of the rice market, South Korean rice which is weak in competitiveness will inevitably be driven out, the farmers' lives will come to an end, farming will come to a rupture, and this will have an influence on the overall economy, thus letting the people's welfare fall further into extreme distress. This is an obvious fact.

The South Korean people are claiming that the opening of the rice market is indeed an act of obliterating the farmers by killing the 6 million farmers and destroying the basis of national existence. This is the reason why they are resolutely opposing and denouncing the opening of the rice market.

Nevertheless, traitor Kim Yong-sam yielded to the pressure of his lord and master, brought on the international cooperative system opposing us, promised to open the rice market at the price of its lord and master's promise to oppose our package deal method in resolving the nuclear issue, thus, sealing the agreement on opening the rice market.

This is truly a high treason among treasons. Bent on selling the nation's dignity and interest and plotting to harm and crush [apsal] the fellow countrymen by borrowing the strength of outside forces in order to realize his own desire for holding the reins of power, the treacherous Kim Yong-sam bunch is truly a top grade

flunkeyist nation-seller and the most wicked national traitor, considerably surpassing the series of South Korean puppets.

What is despicable is the fact that in connection with the issue of opening the rice market, traitor Kim Yong-sam unhesitatingly made it a business to carry out abnormal acts and acts of betrayal and deceit. During the presidential elections, he even risked his position of president in promising to defend rice, but he threw away the promise he made with his own mouth like a worn-out shoe, and despite the opposition of the people, persistently resorted to opening the rice market with the authority of the president. Moreover, he feigned ignorance as if the issue of opening the rice market was not discussed at all when he visited the United States. However, when the truth was revealed and the voice of people's resistance grew, he enumerated poor excuses through a special press statement. This is the highest act of fraudulence transcending imagination.

It was newly exposed that sometime between November and early December, the puppet clique had already signed a document to open the rice market, even before the puppet clique had proclaimed the opening of the rice market. On the surface, the puppet clique talked as if it would not open the rice market but it deceived the eyes of the people and secretly signed the document for opening the rice market. Where are such brazenfaced frauds in this world, and who in the world can have faith in this kind of fellows?

The Kim Yong-sam ring committed high treason which cannot by any means be pardoned, is spouting this out now, and is playing a double game to lessen the people's rebellious spirit. This is truly disgusting.

Currently, the South Korean authorities and the Democratic Liberal Party group are carrying out hypocritical provisions such as taking measures to assist farms following the opening of the rice market, collecting opinions, and so on. When he ran around the puppet military units on 14 December, traitor Kim Yong-sam behaved in a crafty way by saying that even though rice is imported it will have no problems at all, that continued efforts and assistance will be made to protect farms, and that on the whole this will be an interest.

We are well aware of the rascal's brazenfacedness from the fact that he did not flinch even though he entrusted all of the South Korean rice market to the tiger's mouth of the outside forces and moved down the road of killing the farmers and farms, and that he unhesitatingly spewed such flattery and sophistry. Rather than soothing the South Korean farmers and people who are letting off steam at such unreasonable nonsense, it will further ignite their anger.

Overflowing with anger, people from all walks of life including the South Korean farmers, youth, and students are holding demonstrations and struggles every day, and are condemning and denouncing the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime's opening of the rice market. The Kim

Yong-sam ring will not be able to escape the strict judgment by history and the people because of the high treason they committed.

Daily Accuses Kim Yong-sam of 'Treacheries'

SK1812103293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011
GMT 18 Dec 93

[“NODONG SINMUN on Treacheries of Kim Yong-sam Puppet Government”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article on the flunkeyist treacheries committed by the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime under the “civilian” veil.

The author of the article says:

The traitor Kim Yong-sam has unhesitatingly committed criminal acts by offering the interests of the country and the nation totally to outside forces in a bid to prolong his dirty days under the patronage of outside forces.

Rice market opening is an unpardonable anti-national crime completely cutting the lifeline of the South Korean people and further reducing South Korea to a market of U.S. surplus agricultural produce.

Kim Yong-sam the puppet describes it as “an unavoidable measure” and contends that “the gain will be bigger than the loss.” He also talks about some “measures”. But it is a deception to conceal his clique's treacherous crime.

At recent talks between the traitor Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, the latter tried to gloss over the past crimes of Japan while the traitor, deeply gratified, flattered him, “highly estimating his understanding of history.” The traitor blabbed that “compensation to the comfort women for the army” is not needed and he would establish future-oriented “new relations” with Japan, not wedded to history.

The South Korean puppets are running about feverishly to slay fellow countrymen with the sword of outside forces on the pretext of the fictitious “nuclear problem” of the North.

Their fuss about “nuclear problem” is a product of the premeditated anti-socialist, anti-DPRK campaign of the imperialist reactionaries to stifle the DPRK advancing under the banner of socialism.

They are kicking up a dust over a false information about “nuclear development” of the North put in their hand by others to establish an “international cooperation system” for stifling the North and are defending Japan's nuclear armament and overseas expansion while selling off the nation's interests as seen in the case of rice market opening.

What the Kim Yong-sam clique has done under the "civilian" veil is nothing but treacheries such as serving as a dog of outside forces to hurt fellow countrymen by dancing to their tune and as lining its own pocket by selling the nation's interests.

As long as these traitors stay in power, the modern-type "five traitors of 1905" who leave no stone unturned in gratifying their greed for power, no one can predict what disasters would be inflicted on the South Korean people.

KCNA Reports Protests in Seoul on Rice Market

SK1912085993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828
GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 19 (KCNA)—More than 5,000 students held a rally and a demonstration in Seoul in protest against rice market opening on December 18 which the all-people emergency measure committee for checking rice market opening declared the "third day of the people's action for defending our rice", according to reports from Seoul.

The students at the rally denounced the traitor Kim Yong-sam who reached an agreement with the United States on opening the agricultural market of South Korea.

At the end of the rally, they marched to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and the puppet government building, holding a placard reading "We do not want to be slaves of food!" and shouting the anti-U.S. slogan "Yankees, go home".

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 peasants and citizens held a protest rally in Chinju, South Kyongsang Province, and demanded that the puppet authorities hold a referendum on rice market opening.

The all-people emergency measure committee for checking rice market opening made public a statement that day denouncing rice market opening by the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime as a result of submissive diplomacy and declaring that it would fight it out to check the "ratification" of rice market opening by the "National Assembly".

Hanminjon Calls for Rally Against Rice Opening

SK1812112993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016
GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) in a manifesto on December 14 called upon all the people to turn out in a struggle against rice market opening by the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam, who had declared that he would defend rice by staking his presidency, did not hesitate to secretly promise rice market opening as soon as he grabbed power for the greedy interests of the

United States in return for its commitment to "international cooperation system" to harm and stifle the North where fellow countrymen live, the manifesto says, adding: "This treacherous act cannot be condoned."

It calls upon all the peasants tilling fields to decisively shatter the rice market opening by the Kim Yong-sam "regime" killing agriculture, upon the 10 million working people to join the peasants in the struggle against rice market opening and upon the one million students to become pioneers in setting off a volcanic explosion of the grievances and wrath of the peasants.

It appeals to figures of all the parties and groupings and dissidents to take an active part in "the struggle to defend our rice" with a patriotic will, not urged by party interests and strategem and fulfil their duties as politicians.

The manifesto calls upon all the people to rise up in the struggle to remove the Kim Yong-sam treacherous "regime" and combine the struggle against rice market opening with the anti-U.S. struggle.

"Let all the patriotic democratic forces form a united front and wage an all-people joint struggle, closely united under one banner for defending the existence of the nation," urges the manifesto.

ROK 'Peasants' Rally Against Rice Opening

SK1812114793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032
GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—Some 2,000 South Korean peasants held a rally against rice market opening in Seoul on December 17, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The ralliers demanded that the "National Assembly" put the problem of rice market opening to a referendum and not endorse the market opening "motion".

In a statement, they said the rice market opening was an unpardonable act leading to the destruction of the foundation of grain production and the rural communities and precipitating the uprooting of peasants.

SKNDF Publishes White Paper on South 'Regime'

SK1912085393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825
GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 19 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) on December 15 published a white paper exposing the treacherous crimes of the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique under "civilian" veil, according to Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation.

The lengthy white paper enumerates facts proving that the Kim Yong-sam "regime" in the past ten months stripped itself bare as a fascist "regime," a treacherous

"regime," a confrontational "regime", not a civilian regime wanted by the people.

It says:

Kim Yong-sam is a truculent fascist who, under the "civilian" mask, has violated and obliterated true democratisation with sham reforms.

This renegade is using the "National Security Law," a worst fascist law, as a fascist club of the "civilian regime" still now. And he has reorganised and beefed up the "Security Planning Board," a fascist tool of the "Sixth Republic," by installing in it the "anti-North strategic planning department."

The Kim Yong-sam group has largely reinforced the riot police units, augmenting them by 247 companies of more than 39,000 men.

It is wringing the necks of workers by working out a "five-year new economy plan" and has reduced the rural communities to "a dying countryside" by bringing a cold wave of worst crop since 1980.

They buried in darkness the "May 16 coup" and the "October Yusin," the "December 12 army purge coup" and the May 17 Kwangju massacre, declaring that they "leave the probe into these four cases of violation of constitutional government to history" and are patronising their chief culprits.

They staged a bloodbath by hurling a police force of 100,000 against the struggle of students and citizens demanding a probe into the Kwangju incident and the punishment of those responsible for it and are going on the rampage to suppress and dissolve all the fighting organisations such as the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), the National Teachers Union (Chongyojo), and the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon).

Kim Yong-sam is a traitor of worst type who has sold off the nation's vital interests under the "civilian" mask.

At the "South Korea-U.S. summit" on November 23, Kim Yong-sam secretly promised rice market opening to the United States and finally signed the memorandum of agreement, pulling off the last prop from under the national economy of South Korea and reducing it to a rice market of the United States.

At the "APEC [Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation] summit" he put the noose of this dominative system around the neck of South Korea, blabbing flatteringly that his "new diplomacy" had a thread of connection with Bill Clinton's conception of "New Pacific Community."

At the "South Korea-U.S. summit" in July and the "South Korea-U.S. Annual Security Consultative Meeting" in November, he induced the United States to adopt

the "win-and-win strategy" and had the wartime operational control of the Seventh Fleet of the U.S. Pacific command placed under the "South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command."

To fasten the U.S. forces to South Korea, the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime even cooked up a treacherous "special agreement" lifting the burden share of South Korea for the maintenance of the U.S. forces in South Korea up to the one-third mark.

The Kim Yong-sam traitor clique totally abandoned the claim for compensation to the "comfort women for the army" and brought this problem to nill, racing headlong to a Japan-toeing policy.

Taking the road of military tieup with Japan which is surfacing as a nuclear power and a military power, the Kim Yong-sam group is drawing the Japanese "self-defense forces" into South Korea-U.S. anti-submarine manoeuvres and maritime blockade exercises.

Kim Yong-sam is a vicious bellicose element who, under the "civilian" mask, has led the North-South relations to confrontation and the brink of war.

Blaring that they "cannot shake hands with a side possessed of nuclear weapons," the Kim Yong-sam group, after seizing power, suspended the North-South high-level talks which had just entered a concluding stage, the operation of the North-South joint nuclear control committee and the working-level contact for economic exchange. They blocked at the point of the bayonet the North-South student talks at Panmunjom on June 12 and opening in Seoul of the fourth pan-national rally on August 15 and even barred the Seoul-Pyongyang soccer games and cycle race of North and South students.

They turned down all the patriotic proposals of the North, came out with the "three-stage reunification doctrine" for "reunification through absorption" and have aggravated confrontation and tension over the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the North. Kim Yong-sam resumed on the largest scale the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres which had been suspended toward the end of the "Sixth Republic."

At the South Korea-Japan secret talks in Kyongju on November 6, the Kim Yong-sam group reached an agreement with Japan to form a "joint front" to stifle the North over the "nuclear problem" in return for abandoning the claim for the liquidation of the past by Japan and even signed a secret agreement on the joint promotion of nuclear development by South Korea and Japan.

At the "South Korea-U.S. summit" in November, they asked the United States to turn down the package solution proposed by the North and take a step of "international sanctions" against it in reward for concession to the United States in the form of total opening of the South Korean rice market and reached an agreement

to "further strengthen the cooperative system in the nuclear problem" between South Korea and the United States.

Our people will bring down a deadly sledge hammer on the head of the Kim Yong-sam group which has acted against independence, democracy and reunification under the "civilian" mask, warns the white paper.

Daily Denounces Japan for Deaths of Koreans

SK1812114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030
GMT 18 Dec 93

[**"Japan Must Pay for Sweat, Blood and Death of Koreans"—KCNA headline**]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article by Dr. Im Chong-sok denouncing the Japanese authorities who have lost the last shred of conscience and morality.

The article says:

"Prosperity" of Japan, of which the Japanese ruling quarters boast on every opportunity, involves the fabulous wealth of Korea and blood of Koreans squeezed by the Japanese imperialists during their occupation and colonial rule over Korea for more than 40 years.

In those days, the Japanese imperialists fattened their economy with large quantities of natural resources and assets they plundered from Korea, and kept vast munitions industry and key industries going by drafting six million Koreans and driving them hard.

They hunted young and middle-aged Koreans as slaves and subjected them to slave labour of 16 to 18 hours a day at coal and ore mines, construction sites of hydraulic power stations and railways and other backbreaking work sites.

The Shinano hydro-power station, the Osaka-Tokyo railway section and other objects in Japan cost Koreans their sweat, blood and lives.

Many Koreans died in the Senzan railway project in Miyagi Prefecture. It is still said in this area that "each sleeper means one Korean dead."

While subjecting Koreans to slave labour, the Japanese imperialists mercilessly killed those who proved useless from illness or injury and those who showed a sign of protest. In the 1940-1944 period, they killed a total of 60,000 Koreans at coal mines in Japan.

They also killed Koreans en masse after working them at construction sites of military facilities and at areas of the munitions industry in order to "keep the secrets," for instance, 5,000 in Kuril Islands, 2,500 in another island and 500 at the construction site of the bunker of the imperial headquarters in Matsushiro.

The Japanese authorities utter not a word about this criminal act and, on the contrary, try to conceal it while advertising their "economic prosperity."

If they have an iota of conscience and morality, they must apologize and compensate for the sweat, blood and death of Koreans.

Daily on Japan's Attitude Toward 'Comfort Women'

SK1912090693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834
GMT 19 Dec 93

[**"Japan Will Face Bitterer Denunciation and Curse"—KCNA headline**]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 19 (KCNA)—Ten representatives of 146 former "comfort women for the army" who are reportedly alive in South Korea officially demanded of the Japanese prime minister compensation and warned that if the Japanese Government failed to accept their demand, all of them would commit disembowelment at the UN General Assembly.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says that they are witnesses of history who exposed the crimes of the Japanese imperialists and demanded compensation, unable to look calmly at the unjustifiable behaviour of the Japanese Government which is trying to avoid responsibility for the past crimes of aggression.

The analyst goes on:

If Japan values international morality and consciousness, it must sincerely repent of its past crime and make an apology and compensation. But the Japanese Government had denied crimes against "comfort women for the army" and reluctantly admitted them after evidences were produced. It has not yet admitted forcible drafting and, moreover, is trying to avoid the responsibility for compensation at any cost.

The Japanese authorities are deliberately dragging on the apology and compensation for the past crimes. This is as good as waiting for the death of the surviving "comfort women for the army" in their advanced age.

The Japanese Government's avoidance of the liquidation of the past crimes is, in the final analysis, an extension of the atrocities of the Japanese imperialist aggressors who forced all sufferings and death on "comfort women for the army" and perpetration of dual crimes.

Japan, while failing to clearly liquidate the past marred by hateful crimes, is trying to occupy a seat of permanent membership of the UN Security Council. If such scheme of Japan is allowed, it might repeat its past crimes.

The Japanese Government must admit and repent of the past crimes and answer the just demand of the surviving "comfort women for the army".

Kim Il-song Receives Message From 'Arafat

*SK2012061693 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 16 Dec 93*

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received a reply message from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, responding to his message of solidarity on the day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The reply message reads:

Pyongyang.

To your Excellency DPRK President Kim Il-song.

Your Excellency President Kim Il-song:

I extend greetings to you.

I deeply thank your Excellency and the friendly government and people of your country through your Excellency, in the name of the Palestinian people, my brotherly members of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, and myself for sending a kind message and expressing heartfelt support and solidarity on the day of world solidarity with the Palestinian People.

On this occasion, I express my deep gratitude for your support and encouragement for our people's struggle of justice for national liberation and independence. Our Palestinian people are now preparing to enter a new stage in building sub-structure and national organizations, which are the grounds for establishing an independent nation with the sacred Quds as its capital. Your invariable position has a special meaning at this important and acute moment.

I would like to take this important opportunity of expressing my belief that the valuable friendship and solidarity consolidated between our two peoples will strengthen and develop even further with a new vision in accordance with common interests. I express my whole-hearted gratitude again, and wish your Excellency a long, healthy, and happy life, and the friendly Korean people progress, prosperity, and great success in their struggle to achieve their sublime desire of fatherland's reunification. I pay the most sublime respects for your Excellency, and extend the warmest greetings of prayer to your Excellency, a great friend of our people.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee

[Dated] [month and date indistinct] 1993, Tunis

WPK Sends Greetings to Mexican Socialist Party

*SK1812114893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038
GMT 18 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the 16th Congress of the Socialist People's Party of Mexico.

In the message the Central Committee of the WPK said the 16th Congress of the Socialist People's Party of Mexico will mark an important occasion in putting forth new tasks of their struggle to defend independent rights of the Mexican people and further strengthen the party.

The message expressed the conviction that the friendly relations between the two parties would further strengthen and develop in the future in accordance with the idea of anti-imperialist independence and socialism, and wished the congress great success in its work.

Bulgarian Communist Party Statement Noted

*SK1912082393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805
GMT 19 Dec 93*

[“Threat To Korea Is Crude Violation of the Principle of DPRK-U.S. Joint Statement”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 19 (KCNA)—“Threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a crude violation of the principle of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement, said the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists) in a statement on the situation of the Korean peninsula on December 13.

Noting that the president and other official persons of the United States are uttering wild words aggravating the tensions on the Korean peninsula and laying obstacles in the way of the settlement of the nuclear problem, the statement denounced the U.S. side's attempt at pressure and threat.

“The formula of package solution put forward by the DPRK will help resolve all the nuclear problems including the implementation of the safeguards agreement,” it said.

It expressed full support to the efforts of the DPRK to solve the nuclear problem in a peaceful way through dialogue.

Zambian Defense Ministry Delegation Arrives

*SK1812150893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500
GMT 18 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Ministry of Defense of Zambia led by Vice-Minister of Defense Chitalu Malama Sampa arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Lieut. Gen. Yi Mu-ung of the Korean People's Army.

Pyongyang Papers Observe Niger National Day

SK1812113693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019
GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—Papers here today observe the 35th anniversary of the national day of Niger.

MINJU CHOSON in a by-lined article notes that the Nigerien people, after the proclamation of the Republic, have registered noticeable successes in their efforts to consolidate the national independence and build the national economy and culture.

It says:

Korea and Niger, far off as they are from each other geographically, have established tight bonds of friendship in the joint struggle against imperialism.

Particularly after establishing diplomatic relations in 1974, the two peoples have endeavoured to develop the friendly and cooperative relations in conformity with their purpose and desire.

The Korean people will, in the future, too, do their utmost to strengthen and develop the friendly relations with the Nigerien people in different fields on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

The Korean people wish the Nigerien people commemorating the independence day greater achievements in their efforts for the independent development and prosperity of the country.

Various Countries Name Units After Kim Chong-il

SK1812113393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004
GMT 18 Dec 93

[“Immortal Name Shining Over the World”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—The august name of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is given to significant units and objects in various countries as a token of high tribute to his great ideology and theory, outstanding leadership and immortal exploits.

The Guava Street in Corriverton City, Guyana, was renamed Kim Chong-il Street in February last year and a new library was named Kim Chong-il Library by the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea early this year.

Kim Chong-il classes and Kim Chong-il graduating classes emerged at the Kitante Primary School in Kampala, Uganda, the Ali Ali School in Karachi, Pakistan, the Nansan Senior Middle School in Antananarivo, Madagascar, the Munali Senior Middle School in Lusaka, Zambia and the Kuds School for Palestinians in Tunis, Tunisia.

In New Delhi the society for the study of Kim Chong-il's works was formed and in Japan 18 study groups assuming the august name of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were inaugurated, among them the Tokyo Society for the Study of Kim Chong-il's Works, the Osaka Society for the Study of Kim Chong-il's Works and the Okinawa Society for the Study of Kim Chong-il's Works.

Some time ago, there came into being the Lebanese Group for the Study of the Idea and Theory of Comrade Kim Chong-il and the Kim Chong-il Group of Palestine for the Study of the Chuche Idea and the Peruvian Group for the Study of the Idea of Comrade Kim Chong-il on Art and Literature.

Foreign Political Groups Support 29 Nov Statement

SK1812043193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416
GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—Foreign political and public circles have supported the November 29 statement released by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in denunciation of the United States which is trying to stifle the DPRK, forcing its unreasonable demand on it, its dialogue partner, and condemned the Korean policy of the United States.

The Polish League of Communists “Proletariat” said in a statement that the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula can be solved only through dialogue and that the pressure put by the United States on the DPRK is an act contradicting the principle of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement and grossly transgressing the universally recognized norms of international law.

The all India Indo-Korean Friendship Association and the Indian Committee for Supporting Korean Reunification made public a joint statement expressing deep concern over the U.S. moves to stifle the DPRK, a non-aligned socialist state, with threat and “sanctions,” endangering the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

“We strongly urge the United States to immediately withdraw all its nuclear weapons and troops from South Korea and provide conditions favorable to the denuclearization and peaceful reunification of the peninsula,” the statement said.

The Jordanian paper AL-SHA'B December 7 in a commentary lambasting the U.S. Korean policy noted that the United States is attempting to use the policy of confrontation with North Korea in diverting elsewhere the attention of the South Korean people who are calling for Korean reunification and the dismantling of the U.S. military bases.

Foreign Journals Report on Korean-Style Socialism

SK1812003093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505
GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 17 (KCNA)—Publications of Tanzania and Mozambique carried articles on the superiority of Korean-style socialism guided by the chuche idea.

The Tanzanian paper WATU in an article titled "Chuche Idea—Korean-Style Socialism" said the secret of the invincibility of socialism and its victory in Korea lies in the building of a man-centred socialist system, the embodiment of its great guiding idea—the chuche idea.

The paper continued:

President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea founded the chuche idea and, by applying it, built socialism centred on the masses in Korea where poverty, oppression and backwardness of the century had held sway in the past.

Socialism of Korea is guided by the chuche idea. So it is a man-centred socialism regarding the people as the master of the country and making everything serve them. Under it the people's desire for an independent and creative life has been carried into a brilliant reality in all the political, economic, ideological and cultural realms.

The DPRK has turned into a powerful socialist state, independent, self-sustaining and self-reliant in national defence, which develops on its own feet in all domains without being subjugated to or depending on others.

Therefore, no "international sanctions" can work on this country.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has perfectly grasped the chuche idea and is creditably enriching it, put up the slogan "We Serve the People!" In order to meet more satisfactorily the requirement of the chuche idea for the independence of the people.

The Korean people are upholding his leadership with a loyal heart, taking the slogan "When the Party Is Determined, We Can Do Anything!" as their faith.

The Mozambican magazine TEMPO said the chuche idea is a man-centred philosophical idea founded by President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people. The greatness of this idea lies in that the position of the popular masses is put on the highest plane because they are the real master of the country, it said.

The magazine added that the chuche idea is being enriched by the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

Syrian Council Sends Letter to UN on DPRK

SK1812152293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503
GMT 18 Dec 93

[“The Nuclear Problem on the Korean Peninsula Must Be Resolved Through DPRK-U.S. Talks”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 18 (KCNA)—Members of the People's Council of Syria in a letter sent to the UN secretary general on December 11 in joint name held that the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula must be resolved through dialogue and talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States.

"The nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula has been caused by the dense deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea," the letter noted.

"Nevertheless, the United States and the South Korean authorities resort to provocative threat and blackmail against the DPRK, charging it with the 'nuclear problem,'" it said, and expressed deep concern over the increase of tension on the Korean peninsula owing to this.

The letter said that the campaign of threat against the DPRK is mainly motivated by the U.S. dislike to the socialist system built in that country.

Noting that the policy of threat and the solution of disputes by strength are not an ideal way of the solution of international issues, the letter demanded that the United States stop the threatening campaign.

Top Officials Attend Rally on WPK Resolution

SK1712114493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041
GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 17 (KCNA)—Over 100,000 working people here held a mass rally at Kim Il-song Square today and vowed to implement to the letter the resolution of the 21st plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

The plenary meeting, on the basis of a deep analysis of the changed situation and the practical demand of socialist construction in the country, decided to set two to three years to come as a period of adjustment in socialist economic construction and laid down a strategic policy of directing primary efforts to agriculture, the light industry and foreign trade in this period.

Set up in the square were slogans reading "Let Us Thoroughly Implement the Resolution of the 21st Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Party!" "Let Us Exalt Our Socialism With the Might of Singlehearted Unity!" and "When the Party Is Determined, We Can Do Anything!"

The mass rally was attended by Premier Kang Song-san and Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Politburo members of the WPK Central Committee, and other senior party and government officials.

Kang Hyon-su, member of the WPK Central Committee, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, made a report at the rally.

He noted that through the efforts to fulfill the Third Seven-Year Plan, the political, economic and military potentials of the nation grew further still and the revolutionary capital of Pyongyang turned into a modern city where the chuche idea is embodied splendidly.

He added that all the achievements in the fulfillment of the plan were a result of the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and a precious fruition of the might of the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

All the party members and other working people in the capital must turn out as one in the campaign to implement the strategic policy of the party, the reporter urged, stressing that the way of successfully fulfilling this task lies in giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work.

No matter how desperately the imperialists and reactionaries may resort to political and military pressure and economic blockade to stifle Korean socialism. They will never be able to block the vigorous advance of the Korean people fighting in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance under the guidance of the party and the leader, he declared.

The reporter said Pyongyang must set the pace for the whole nation in the campaign to implement the resolution of the plenary meeting.

Representatives of people of various strata in their speeches vowed to turn out in the drive to implement the decision of the plenary meeting with the same vim and vigour with which they effected a great Chollima upsurge after the war.

A resolution was adopted at the rally.

Radio Reports Pyongyang Rally

SK1812002593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Excerpts] A mass rally of Pyongyang City to thoroughly implement the resolution of the 21st plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] was held at Kim Il-song Square on the afternoon of 17 December. [passage omitted]

Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the

WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice-president; Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Yong-nim, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Comrades Kim Chung-nin, So Kwan-hui, and Kim Ki-nam, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Pok-sin, Kim Yun-hyok, and Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee; responsible functionaries from party and government organizations, administrative and economic organizations, and workers' organizations; heroes, and unheralded persons of merits, came to the rostrum. [passage omitted]

Pyongyang Secretary Delivers Report

SK1812083693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1705 GMT 17 Dec 93

[“Report” by Kang Hyon-su, responsible secretary of Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the municipal People's Committee, at a mass rally at Kim Il-song Square, Pyongyang, on 17 December—recorded]

[Text] Today when the whole country is filled with boundless joy and excitement to hear the report on the fulfillment of the Third Seven-Year Plan to realize the grand program of socialist economic construction presented by the historic sixth congress of our party, we are holding this Pyongyang mass rally to implement the decisions of the 21st plenary session of the Sixth Workers Party of Korea Central Committee.

The plenary session of the party Central Committee was a historic meeting that resulted in an epochal turning point in consolidating the results achieved during the period of the Third Seven-Year Plan under the wise leadership of the party and the leader and in strengthening the might of socialism of our own style and enhancing its superiority even further by vigorously accelerating socialist economic construction. [applause]

As pointed out at the plenary session, our party and people struggled to fulfill the Third Seven-Year Plan at a time when the situation was unprecedently complicated and acute.

The international environment for our revolution, which had rapidly changed due to grave international incidents and the collapse of the world socialist market, created great obstacles to our socialist economic construction. We could not help but concentrate our efforts on strengthening the national defense to cope appropriately with the intensified aggression maneuvers against our Republic by the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets.

Based on its profound insight into the changed international environment and situation which became more and more acute as days went by, our party presented its plan to adjust the speed of expected economic growth during the Third Seven-Year Plan, to prepare a better economic structure, and to change its policy on external economic relations.

The heroic working class and working people in the capital city, who are boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader, have registered brilliant feats in socialist economic construction by displaying their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and unparalleled spirit of self-sacrifice, upholding the party's revolutionary policy. [applause]

As the citizens of the capital struggled stoutly during the period of the Third Seven-Year Plan with iron-firm faith and will to do what the party decides, the capital's industrial structure has been fully prepared and the basis for a self-reliant economy has been consolidated. The appearance of the capital has also changed completely as the grandiose and luxurious Kwangbok and Tong-il streets and about 100,000 modern houses were newly built during the same period.

In the agricultural sector, they made rapid progress in production of grain and other agricultural products by brilliantly implementing the programmatic tasks presented by the rural theses.

Through the struggle to fulfill the Third Seven-Year Plan, the nation's political, economic, and military power has further been strengthened, and Pyongyang, the revolutionary capital, has become a pleasant, modern city where the chuche idea is brilliantly embodied.

All the success achieved during the period of the Third Seven-Year Plan is the result of the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and the valuable fruit of our single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses. [applause]

Today we face the honorable task of strengthening the socialist cause of our own style and enhancing its superiority by accelerating the socialist economic construction as well as by consolidating the results achieved during the period of the Third Seven-Year Plan.

Based on an insightful analysis of the changed environment and specific demands of socialist construction in our country, the party's plenary session set the next two or three years as a period of adjustment for socialist economic construction and presented a strategic policy on giving priority to agriculture, light industries, and trade during the period.

The presentation of the revolutionary economic strategy demonstrates clearly the wise leadership of the party and the leader that brighten the future of our economic

construction with his extraordinary wisdom and insight and lead our people to brilliant feats and innovations.

Because our party and people hold in high esteem the dear comrade leader, the genius of creation and construction and an outstanding strategist, at their van, they came to have such a great economic strategy that firmly ensures the future of our-style socialism and prosperity and growth of our nation.

Party members and workers in the capital should unanimously rise in the struggle and tenaciously fight to carry to accomplishment the party's revolutionary economic strategy. Thus, they should brilliantly implement the great idea on socialist construction of the dear comrade leader.

We should carry out the technological revolution of farms according to strategic plans put forward by the party and should carry out farming works scientifically and technically according to the demand of the chuche agricultural method in a bid to enhance all domains in agricultural products onto a new higher stage.

Functionaries and workers of the capital's agricultural field should make preparations for next year's farming and glorify 1994—the significant year marking the 30th anniversary of the publication of the agricultural thesis—as the year of rich harvest.

In particular, they should direct efforts to satisfactorily meet the capital citizens' demands for vegetables by thoroughly implementing the great leader's teaching that the basis of farming in Pyongyang city is the production of vegetables.

At the same time, they should thoroughly implement the teachings given this year again by the great leader during his on-the-spot guidance to the (Taeyang) (?cooperative farm), Sopo (?chicken plant), Songsin cooperative farm, and Changchun cooperative farm, and should effect a new upsurge in production of eggs, meat, fruit and other agricultural products.

Functionaries and workers of the light industry sector in the capital should vigorously carry out the struggle to further modernize the existing light industrial plants by upholding the party's light industry-first policy and to normalize the production at an high level. Thus, they should decisively increase the production of (?fabrics) and shoes, and should register an epoch-making turn in production of consumer goods including food processing industry and [word indistinct].

At the same time, all domains of the national economy should firmly organize the bases for production of export commodities by upholding the party's trade first-policy and should actively pioneer overseas markets, thus effecting a new turn in the development of external trade.

We should continuously direct great strength to the coal industry, electric power industry, and the railway transportation sector, which are the priority fields in the

national economy, and should more satisfactorily resolve the problems of fuel, power and energy, and transportation so that production be normalized at an high level in all domains of the national economy and the nation's overall economic construction be accelerated.

The tasks laid for our city of Pyongyang to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy are indeed gigantic and important. The way for successfully carrying out the tasks is to highly demonstrate the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Just as we advanced forward in the past by upholding the revolutionary slogan on self-reliance and arduous struggle, we should uphold this slogan in the future, too, and should crush antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. Thus, we should carry to accomplishment the socialist cause.

Self-reliance and arduous struggle involve an unswerving revolutionary position to carry out the revolution and construction with our own strength. The way for demonstrating the nation's dignity and honor is to achieve self-reliance and the way for building a most solid and vigorous socialism is also to achieve self-reliance. Self-reliance and arduous struggle are an important demand for implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategy and are a general line which our party tenaciously maintained in the revolutionary struggle and construction work. [applause]

We should thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy by continually upholding the revolutionary banner of self-reliance and arduous struggle raised at the sacred Paektu peak.

All party members and workers in the capital should continuously maintain the traditional banner of struggle, under which they solved all difficult problems raised in socialist construction by depending on their own strength and from the position of chuche, and should resolutely smash various challenges and disturbance maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. Thus, they should tenaciously adhere to our-style socialism and firmly defend dignity and honor of the fatherland.

"Let us effect a great upsurge in economic construction with the spirit of adding the speed of nineties to Chollima!" This is a call of our party today and the slogan of our people's struggle.

All party members and workers in the capital should more persistently struggle with confidence and with chuche-oriented position and firm determination to carry to accomplishment the chuche socialist cause with our own strength by following only our party in all changes in the situation.

Today no matter how the imperialists and reactionaries inflict political and military pressure and economic blockade on us in order to suffocate [chilsik] our socialism, they cannot block the vigorous march of our

people who are fighting with the spirit of self-reliance by following the leadership of the party and the leader. Our future is bright and our victory is certain.

All party members and workers should cherish the firm faith that as long as there is the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the chuche revolutionary cause—the socialist cause—will be victorious without fail. They should also cherish the honor of revolutionaries and the sincere heart of loyalty, not breaking their pledge on revolution no matter which way whatever wind may blow.

The dear comrade leader is the destiny of our fatherland and the ever-victorious manner of our revolution. [applause]

We should tenaciously defend and protect the single-hearted unity of the party and revolutionary ranks with dear comrade leader as the center. We should consolidate this unity in every way. By loudly singing the song of loyalty and of faith, "Without you, there is no fatherland!" we should devote all strength and wisdom to embodying the party's lofty intentions.

All party organizations and workers' organizations in the capital should carry out the organizational and political work to deeply instill the great leader's teachings given to the plenary meeting, as well as the spirit of the plenary meeting, into party members and working people. Thus, they should vigorously inspire the party members and workers to the struggle to implement the resolution of the plenary meeting.

Functionaries of all administrative and economic organizations in the capital should boldly carry out on a large scale, the economic organizational work and combat commanding in compliance with the new economic strategy.

In particular, they should mobilize and utilize internal reserves to the maximum and vigorously wage the work of ideological mobilization to inspire the masses towards the technological innovations movement so that production of new technological innovations and creative designs are actively introduced.

The new upsurge in socialist economic construction depends on enhancing the responsibility and role of guidance functionaries. Just as in the days of war to smash the U.S. imperialists and in the postwar days when the first spade work on the wasteland was conducted, all guidance functionaries should always devotedly work and struggle at the van of the masses and should organize and mobilize the masses into heroic feats through bold operation, skillful command and vigorous political work. Thus, they should create the new speed of the nineties.

We should make Pyongyang, the capital of revolution, stand at the van of the whole country in the work to implement the resolution of the 20th Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee.

Our people's will to carry to accomplishment the socialist cause by following the leadership of the great leader and great party is firm and our revolutionary cause is ever-victorious and indomitable. [applause]

Let us more vigorously march forward to accomplish the socialist cause—the chuche revolutionary cause—in firm unity with the party Central Committee headed by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause] [shouting of slogan, "Let us thoroughly implement the resolution of the 20th Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee!" and other indistinct slogans]

Paper Exalts Kim Chong-il as 'Military Genius'

*SK171211093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010
GMT 17 Dec 93*

[**"It Is the High Honor of Our People and Army To Have a Great Brilliant Commander: NODONG SINMUN"**—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Friday carries a by-lined article titled "It is the High Honor of Our People and People's Army To Have a Great Iron-Willed Brilliant Commander".

The greatest pride of the revolutionary people and Army is that they have a great brilliant commander at the head of the revolutionary Armed Forces and they are guided by him, the article says, and goes on:

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who was elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army by the unanimous desire of our people and People's Army soldiers, is a great military genius and iron-willed brilliant commander with both literary and military accomplishments.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"Comrade Kim Chong-il has indomitable will and grit, distinguished resources and commanding art as becomes the supreme commander of revolutionary Armed Forces and herein lies the guarantee for the steady growth in strength and development of our revolutionary Armed Forces and its invincibility."

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great military genius who was born with the resources and traits of a brilliant commander as his natural gifts.

In his childhood he nursed resources and valor of a brilliant commander in fields of grim battles against the Japanese and U.S. imperialists and acquired flawless qualities and traits as an iron-willed brilliant commander and ever-victorious military strategist in the days of successfully accomplishing the cause of Army building of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The dear leader's traits as a great iron-willed brilliant commander are, above all, found in his unrivalled military wisdom.

His military wisdom is a clairvoyant wisdom of clearly indicating all problems arising in the building of revolutionary Armed Forces in the age of independence with a scientific insight into its essence and law-governed nature, ingenious wisdom of solving everything in a creative way, not wedded to any ready-made theory, and an ever-victorious wisdom not making a single mistake. It is marked by distinguished thinking, rare pursuit, scientific penetration and outstanding military ingenuity.

His traits as a great brilliant commander lies also in matchless grit and iron will not wavering before any thunder and lightning.

Each time the enemy commits a grave military provocation and resorts to threat and blackmail, he regards them as a mere kicking of doomed mortals and drives the enemy into the defensive without a moment's hesitation and vacillation.

Today his unexcelled grit and will is the source of invincibility giving conviction of victory and courage to our people and people's Army soldiers and deadly fear and uneasiness to the enemy.

The traits of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as a great iron-willed brilliant commander lies in his most experienced and tested commanding art.

The essential characteristic of his commanding art is a commanding art of chuche solving all problems with firm belief in the soldiers, the subject of military affairs, and actively enlisting their strength.

The mightiest weapon in commanding and leading Army is affection and trust.

It is an intrinsic trait of the dear leader comrade Kim Chong-il in commanding the Army to put each soldier in the foreground as the most powerful and precious being and guides him with warm affection and trust. This is why the men and officers of our People's Army highly praise his bosom as a great fatherly bosom and dedicate their all to repay his trust and love with loyalty and filial piety.

No force on earth can match the close singlehearted unity of our revolutionary Armed Forces around our Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Boundless is the honor and joy of our people and People's Army soldiers holding him in high esteem at the head of our revolutionary Armed Forces and a brighter prospect is opening before our People's Army.

Symposium Discusses 'Greatness' of Kim Chong-il

*SK1712112993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031
GMT 17 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 17 (KCNA)—A national symposium was held here Thursday to grasp the great

leader President Kim Il-song's idea and theory on carrying forward to completion the cause of socialism and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's greatness.

Attending the symposium were Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the C.C., the WPK, and other officials concerned.

The speakers there noted that President Kim Il-song scientifically expounded of late the importance of the succession of leadership in accomplishing the cause of socialism and put forth the very precious and profound idea and theory that a firm guarantee for carrying forward to completion the revolutionary cause of chuche, the Korean people's cause of socialism, lies in being loyal to the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"A sure guarantee for carrying forward the cause of socialism to completion lies in upholding the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il."

Stressing that the great leader's idea and theory is an immortal banner showing a bright path of victorious progress and accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche, the speakers explained its reason.

They also spoke about the [word indistinct] of Comrade Kim Chong-il who is successfully carrying forward to completion the revolutionary cause of chuche, the cause of socialism.

The speakers were unanimous in saying that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great thinker and theoretician, statesman and military strategist with both literary and military accomplishments and loyalty and filial piety, and a people's leader unboundedly loyal to the country and the people.

They noted that his literary and military accomplishments and loyalty and filial piety are the quality and ability of the illustrious leader who has got the highest plane where no one else has ever reached in rare wisdom and leadership art as a thinker and theoretician and statesman, in unexcelled courage and iron will as a military strategist and in intensive loyalty and filial piety to the leader.

His wisdom, great character and ability are based on his boundless loyalty and devoted filial piety to the leader, his unbounded faithfulness and devotion to the country and the people, they stressed.

Paper Says Korean Socialism 'Cannot Be Checked'

SK171212893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024
GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 07 (KCNA)—Whatever trumpet the imperialists and reactionaries may blow, the

ranks of the revolutionary parties and people turning out in a new struggle for socialism under the uplifted militant banner of the Pyongyang declaration will continue to grow and mankind will advance along the road of socialism, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

200 political parties have signed the historical declaration "Let Us Defend and Advance the Socialist Cause" adopted in Pyongyang in April last year, the article points out, and continues:

Socialism is displaying tremendous magnetic power for its truth and the aspiration of people for socialism cannot be checked.

Because socialism is an ideal of mankind and a society representing human future, a genuine people's society, as confirmed by the Pyongyang declaration.

There may be turns and twists temporarily in the advance of socialism, but the socialist idea which embodies the social character of mankind and reflects the independent desire of all nations and mankind is unchangeable.

The further history advances and society develops, the further the social character of mankind aspiring after socialism develops and, accordingly, it is an inexorable law that people advance toward socialism, and there is no force on earth to check it.

A temporary setback in the advance of socialism does not stem from the socialist idea itself but mainly from the lack of people's confidence in socialism or the lack of the creative ability to develop socialism.

The collapse of socialism in some countries lies in that those countries failed to adhere to the basic principles of socialism, and, therefore, this has nothing to do with the socialist idea or the socialist system itself.

The imperialists are trying to block the turn of history from capitalism to socialism at any cost, but it is a day dream.

Daily on Supreme Commander-Soldiers Relations

SK2012054793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452
GMT 20 Dec 93

[“Supreme Commander and Revolutionary Soldiers”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Sunday [19 December] in a political essay characterizes the relations between supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il and revolutionary soldiers as relations of trust and loving care, faith and sense of obligation. The supreme commander trusts the revolutionary soldiers and vice versa—this underlies our unshakable faith and invincible might, stresses the paper.

The essay says:

"Supreme commander and his revolutionary men"—these words are a symbol of trust and unity, a symbol of all our victories and glory in Korea.

What makes our revolutionary soldiers trust and follow comrade supreme commander like heaven?

Their trust in him is a trust in a peerless great man and an absolute trust in the most brilliant commander in the world.

Supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il whom our army and people trust and follow as their destiny is a legendary hero and iron-willed brilliant commander who is possessed of all the extraordinary traits and qualities of a leader on the highest level.

He drives back any pressure of the imperialists, turning adversity into a favorable condition, and misfortune into fortune. Fascinated by his wisdom and grit and rare qualities, our revolutionary soldiers trust and worship him like heaven and pledge to remain loyal to him forever.

Their trust in him is a trust in a great comrade.

Trust and love between comrades who share the will and destiny, ordeals and tests, and weal and woe are the deepest trust and love that underlie the singlehearted unity between our supreme commander and the revolutionary soldiers.

Even if the whole earth may shake and the world may change a hundred times, our army and people, revolutionary soldiers, will victoriously make the revolution to the last, following only our leader, our comrade supreme commander, with a loyal heart.

Achievements in 'Rural Technical Revolution'

SK1712055593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458
GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 16 (KCNA)—The rural technical revolution has made a dynamic progress in the period of the third seven-year plan in Korea, bringing many successes.

The West Sea barrage, a grand monumental edifice of the Workers' Party age, was successfully built to be followed by the excavation of the West Sea barrage-Sinchon-Kangryong-Ongjin waterway, the West Sea barrage-lake Changsu backward flow waterway, the West Sea barrage-Unchon waterway, the river Yesong-Yonbaek plain waterway, the river Nam-miru plain waterway, the Thaecheon power station-Unjon-Chongju-Kwaksan waterway, etc. Big waterways with a total length of 800 kilometers have taken shape in grand nature-remaking projects to form grand ring-shape irrigation networks connecting the Taedong, Yesong, Amnok and Taeryong rivers.

Waterways with a total length of 10,400 kilometres including the afore-said 800 kilometres of waterways and over 12,400 pumping stations, 192 reservoirs and 16,000 underground water pumping facilities have been built in the period of the fulfilment of the plan to establish an overall irrigation system for paddy and non-paddy fields.

With electrification completed on a high level, electricity is widely used as power and heat resources in the countryside.

The annual supply of electric power to the countryside amounts to several billion kwh.

A significant turn has also been effected in the comprehensive mechanization and extensive use of chemicals in agriculture.

The Kumsong tractor complex with a production capacity of tens of thousands and the Haeju, Hamhung and Chongjin trailer farm machine factories and other modern farm machine production centres across the country have supplied large quantities of farm machines suitable to the topographical conditions and features of agricultural production.

Now the comprehensive mechanization of agriculture has reached a high level where all farm work from tilling to harvesting and thrashing is done by machines.

The supply of chemical fertilizers has grown 40 percent and their qualitative composition has been improved in the plan period.

The supply of insecticides, sterilizers and herbicides has also been largely augmented.

As a result, the industrialization of agriculture has been actively promoted and an epoch-making progress has been made in agricultural production.

South Korea

DPRK UN Official on Contact With U.S.

SK1712231893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
2215 GMT 17 Dec 93

[YONHAP from Washington]

[Text] North Korea said it had not yet suggested a contact to the United States in response to the U.S. demand concerning nuclear inspection, thus hinting that the next contact between North Korea and the United States will not be held until next week. In an interview with an ROK reporter on 17 December, an official of the North Korean mission to the United Nations said that there is no current plan for a contact with the United States, and he added that some media reports assuming North Korea will fully accept the U.S. demand are far from the reality.

The North Korean counselor-level official stressed that if the United States completely removes its nuclear threat

to North Korea and does not forcibly demand coercive and highhanded conditions [kangapchogigo koapchogin chogondul], the overall nuclear inspection issue can be resolved.

Regarding this, diplomatic sources in Washington said it is still unclear if North Korea will accept the U.S. demand concerning nuclear inspections, and predicted that North Korea will demand many conditions in return for nuclear inspections.

YONHAP on UN Envoy's Comments

SK1712235593 Seoul YONHAP in English 2349 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Washington, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—North Korea said Friday [17 December] it has not asked the United States for an unofficial contact to convey its response to the U.S. demand that Pyongyang accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities. There is a possibility, however, the two countries will make a contact next week, informed sources said.

An official at the North Korean mission to the United Nations in New York told YONHAP News Agency in a telephone interview that no unofficial contact with the United States was planned as of Friday.

The official, who declined to be identified, also said that "there is quite a distance" between reality and press reports that North Korea will accept the entire U.S. demand.

"Some press reports that North Korea would accept all of the U.S. proposals are very far from reality," he said. "But the problem of nuclear inspection in all aspects can be settled if the United States does not adopt high-handed pressure tactics."

Diplomatic sources in Washington, meanwhile, said it is not yet clear whether North Korea will accept international inspection and even if Pyongyang does allow inspection it will attach many conditions.

The U.S. side told North Korea in New York on Dec. 10 that Pyongyang has to allow outside inspections on all seven of its nuclear facilities and resume dialogue with South Korea.

Source: DPRK 'Likely' To Accept U.S. Proposal

SK1812020093 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 18 Dec 93 p 1

[By correspondent Kim Hak-sun from Washington]

[Text] It was learned that North Korea will present a reply during an unofficial working-level contact with the United States, slated for around 20 December in New York, that North Korea will comprehensively [chonmnyon] accept the U.S. proposal on nuclear inspection.

On 16 December, a source in Washington, who has close relations with the U.S. Government and North Korea,

said that "during the upcoming contact that it proposed, the North Korean side will likely convey its intention to accept nearly all of the revised proposal on nuclear inspection made by the United States to North Korea on 10 December."

This source also noted that such an attitude by the North Korean side is obviously related to the trade-first policy that was recently adopted at the Supreme People's Assembly meeting. On 10 December, the U.S. side conveyed its position to North Korea that if North Korea accepts the inspection of all seven of its nuclear facilities it reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency and promises to resume working-level talks for the exchange of special envoys of the North and the South, the United States will announce the suspension of the Team Spirit-94 exercise at the same time of the arrival of the nuclear inspection team in Pyongyang.

Prior to this, on 3 November, the North Korean side expressed its position that it will allow unlimited [mujehan] inspections of five of the seven facilities, omitting the atomic reactor and radiochemical laboratory in Yongbyon, and allow limited [chehanchok] inspection of the two other facilities.

The United States will decide on whether it will accept the North Korean reply after consulting with the ROK side. However, it is highly likely that the United States will show an affirmative response to this.

DPRK Envoy Denies Plan

SK1912005293 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 19 Dec 93 p 1

[By correspondent Kim Cha-ung from New York]

[Text] On 17 December, Ho Chong, deputy ambassador to the North Korean mission to the United Nations, said that if the United States completely removes the nuclear threat to North Korea and discards its high-handed conditions against North Korea, the issue of accepting comprehensive nuclear inspections will be disposed [chori].

Deputy Ambassador Ho Chong denied some press reports that North Korea held an unofficial contact with the United States in New York at which the North Korean side decided to accept the U.S. nuclear inspection proposal. He added that "such reports are far from the truth, and no contact with the United States has been planned for this week."

During the 10 December contact in New York, the United States conveyed its position that North Korea should accept inspection of all seven nuclear facilities reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency and should resume North-South talks.

PRC Hints at Abstention if UNSC Votes on North

SK1912231393 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] It has been learned from U.S. officials that the United States received a strong hint in a recent series of contacts with the PRC that the PRC will abstain if sanctions against North Korea regarding the nuclear issue are discussed by the UN Security Council [UNSC]. According to a Washington source, U.S. State and Defense Department officials in charge of the North Korean issue revealed so last weekend. The source also remarked that if the PRC's change of attitude is true, it will be a variable that significantly affects the future development of the North Korean nuclear issue. The PRC had been insisting that the North Korean nuclear issue should be resolved through dialogue, and repeatedly declared that it will use its veto if sanctions against North Korea are discussed by the UN Security Council.

Russian Ambassador Opposes DPRK Sanctions

SK1812010793 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 18 Dec 93 p 2

[By reporter O Chung-sok from Moscow]

[Text] Russia said that it is considered desirable to resolve peacefully the North Korean nuclear issue, and that it is opposed to military sanctions against North Korea in any case.

In his news conference with ROK reporters at the Russian Foreign Ministry on the afternoon of 17 December, Georgiy Kunadze, newly appointed Russian ambassador to the ROK, said: "Russia still expects good results from the U.S.-North Korean dialogue," and that "discussing economic sanctions against North Korea when the dialogue is now under way may stimulate North Korea."

He stressed: "Russia actively supports denuclearization on the Korean peninsula," and that "North Korea must remain in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty system."

Concerning the reunification issue on the Korean peninsula, he said that "through their direct dialogue, North and South Korea should realize reunification," and that "it must be realized by peaceful means, not by force of arms."

Saying that "the success of power transfer from Kim Il-song to Kim Chong-il is dependent upon the North Korean people," he stressed that "whether or not this power transfer is realized, the stability of the North Korean Government will be necessary for peace on the Korean peninsula, as well as in Northeast Asia."

Ambassador Kunadze is expected to arrive in the ROK on 7 January 1994.

UN Chief Cited on Upcoming Pyongyang Visit

SK2012110393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1048 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, now on a visit here, said on Monday he had decided to visit North Korea because of the fear that North Korea's situation could bring about a crisis to the nuclear nonproliferation system on the Korean peninsula.

During his talks with Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata at the Foreign Ministry, Butrus-Ghali said that in Pyongyang he would tell Kim Il-song that his country's door opening to the world community would directly serve his country's interests.

Minister Hata said the North Korean nuclear issues make the situation critical. "It is important for the United Nations to show a firm stand toward North Korea and mobilize all available means," Hata said.

The U.N. secretary-general also expressed the hope that Japan will make more positive activities for the United Nations' peace-keeping programs.

Daily on U.S. Ambassador's Ties To NUB Minister

SK2012064393 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 20 Dec 93 p 11

[Article by reporter Pak Chae-kyun on personal relations between Vice Prime Minister and Unification Minister Han Wan-sang and U.S. Ambassador to the ROK James Laney]

[Excerpts] As soon as he took office as U.S. ambassador to the ROK, James Laney telephoned Han Wan-sang, vice prime minister and minister of the National Unification Board, to say: "Mr. Han, this is Mr. Laney." [passages omitted]

Having lived in the ROK for almost 10 years and having supported Koreans who struggled for democracy, James Laney has many Korean friends. His relations with President Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, former chairman of the Democratic Party, are deep. Despite his relations with other figures, however, his relations with Vice Prime Minister Han are special, indeed.

It was in the early 1970's when Vice Prime Minister Han and Ambassador Laney met for the first time. At that time, Vice Prime Minister Han had received his doctorate from Emory University in the United States and was a young professor in his late-thirties at Seoul National University. As dean of the Seminary College of Emory University, Ambassador Laney had visited the ROK once or twice every year and had met with Koreans who had graduated from Emory. Apparently, Ambassador Laney raised funds for university development from the successful Korean businessmen who graduated from Emory University. [passages omitted]

It was in 1947, the chaotic period right after liberation, when the Ambassador first came to the ROK. Young Laney, 20, came to the ROK as an agent of the Counter Intelligence Corps, the U.S. Army's intelligence unit. He participated in the investigations of the murders of Kim Ku, Song Chin-u, and Chang Tok-su.

Laney, a sincere Methodist, deeply felt the sufferings incurred by the newly liberated country from its division. When he returned to the United States in 1948, he made up his mind to "return to the ROK without fail". [passage omitted]

In the meantime, Mr. Han Wan-sang, who became an associate professor at the Seoul National University in 1970, joined the voices rising against the Yusin dictatorship. Han Wan-sang was excluded from professorial reappointment and dismissed in February 1976 on charges of being involved in the issuing of a statement by the Christian Professors' Association on 1 March 1975. It was due to his dismissal that Laney paid much more attention to Professor Han.

However it was in the 1980's that both formed inseparable relations.

At around 2300 on 17 May 1980, Professor Han was taken to the former Korean Central Intelligence Agency on charges of being involved in the so-called "rebellion incident of Kim Tae-chung." One day during Professor Han's incarceration at Sodaemun Prison, two months after he was questioned, he was visited by his wife Mrs. Kim Hyong, who said: "the president [chongjang] has come...." Vice Prime Minister Han immediately understood who the "president" was.

Dean Laney became Emory University President in 1977. As soon as Professor Han was placed under arrest, Laney came to the ROK on two occasions to ask the ROK Government for permission to see Professor Han, but was refused. Laney held contacts with the U.S. figures and made efforts to raise public opinion to release Professor Han. [passages omitted]

Next year, in August 1981, Professor Han received a telephone call from the U.S. Embassy saying, "Sam Nunn, chairman of the U.S. Senate's military committee, is trying to take you to the United States. How is it that you know Chairman Sam Nunn, a real political power-holder in our country...?"

Professor Han recalled that Chairman Sam Nunn had graduated from the Law College of Emory University and then, of course, recalled President Laney. Thanks to President Laney's positive efforts, Professor Han was able to come to the United States in September 1981 and was a visiting professor at Emory University for a year, during which time he launched a movement for democracy.

Laney's aid did not end there. When the ban on political activities was lifted a date of return to the ROK decided upon, Professor Han worried about the education of his

three daughters. Aware of this, President Laney said "As long as I am Emory University President, there is no need to worry about the education of your daughters." Laney allowed Han's his first daughter Han Mi- mi to enter Emory University as a scholarship student. In 1989, Laney allowed Professor Han's third daughter Han Chu-ri to enter the Emory University as a scholarship student. Vice Prime Minister Han still says that "As far as the issue of my daughters' education is concerned, Ambassador Laney is the father of my daughters."

Vice Prime Minister Han says that "Rather than being a Korea-phile or one who simply knows Korea well, Ambassador Laney really loves the ROK" and adds: "I have never seen a man who tries so hard to help others."

However, we cannot overlook the fact that as ambassador, Ambassador Laney will seek his own country's interests.

Vice Prime Minister Han also said that "Ambassador Laney will be a formidable figure as far as the economy is concerned."

Government Considering N-S Family Reunion Site

SK2012014593 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
20 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 19 December that the government is considering proposing to North Korea to install meeting places for North-South separated family members in the Najin and Sonbong free trade areas in North Hamgyong Province, which North Korea has recently hurried to open to foreign countries.

The government is considering such a policy because there has been no progress in the issue of installing a Panmunjom meeting place for separated family members at issue, indirect contacts among separated family members become more frequent in a third country, and North Korea is full-fledgedly hurrying to open the areas after declaring a trade-first policy in the party Central Committee's plenary session on 8 December.

A government official said that "the government has steadily considered a policy of installing meeting places for separated family members in Yanji and Hunchun Cities in China which border North Korea." Saying that "If meeting places are installed in Najin and Sonbong, it will be easier for North Korean residents to visit there and it will be possible for North Korea to earn foreign currency through our side's visitors and thus to obtain the desired result of indirect investment." he added: "The government is reviewing the possibility of installing meeting places there and believes that it will be a new method for North Korea to accept."

The officials noted: "It is not important whether the meeting places in Najin and Sonbong are official or unofficial facilities." He added: "In particular, because a direct sea route between China's Chunchun special area

bordering on North Korea and Sokcho, Kangwon Province, will be established and because the Chinese side shows a positive position toward installing meeting places, the government is considering making an unofficial proposal to North Korea through China."

Ways To Minimize Reunification Cost Suggested
*SK1712055793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea should remain economically independent until their per capita income levels are roughly equal to minimize the cost of unification, a major business organization recommended Friday. It is best to boost North Korea's economy so that it can cope with the cost of uniting with the South, the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) says in a report that looks at German unification as a guide for Korean unification.

When the Berlin Wall fell and Germans were free to come and go, Eastern technicians flocked to the West and delayed economic progress in the East, which had become devoid of technicians and engineers, the report notes. To avoid this problem, the two Koreas should form an economic confederation before full unification, FKI says.

It proposes restricting travel between North and South for a limited time and building industrial complexes in underdeveloped areas of the North to prevent a major exodus of job-seekers.

Northern productivity should be studied objectively to prevent a rapid rise in wages, it says.

A preference for South Korean products could result in bankruptcy for North Korean firms and massive unemployment, jeopardizing the North's frail economy. Instead of uniting at once, the two should take time to allow the communist economic system to recover, the report says.

By allowing all companies to be entirely privatized at once, the Germans suffered great economic and social problems.

Learning from this, market principles should not be immediately applied to North Korean firms by privatizing them, FKI says.

The report, quoting the research of many scholars and research institutes at home and abroad, estimates the total cost of Korean unification at between 200 billion U.S. dollars and 800 billion dollars.

It projects unification sometime around 2000, taking about 10 years for the two economies to equalize.

Lawmakers Sign Petition Claiming Mt. Paektu
*SK1712080493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Some 261 ruling and opposition lawmakers submitted to the National Assembly Friday a resolution that declares null and void the territorial treaty signed between North Korea and China on Mt. Paektu. The resolution on the affirmation of the territorial right over Mt. Paektu claims that the entire mountain is Korean territory.

The resolution, sponsored by Rep. Kim Yong-kwang, said that it was a breach of faith with the Korean people for Pyongyang to divide the great mountain with China.

The resolution was signed by, among others, Chairmen Kim Chong-pil of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, Yi Ki-taek of the main opposition Democratic Party and the leaders of three other parties.

Russian Paper Cited on Kim Yong-chu Return
*SK1712032693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0312 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Reinstatement of Kim Yong-chu to the North Korean Politburo by his elder brother, President Kim Il-song, was the final step in the succession of Kim Chong-il, President Kim's son, to power, according to a Russian newspaper Thursday.

IZVESTIYA quoted sources in Pyongyang as saying that Kim Il-song had reinstated his brother to prepare for eventualities that may take place in the course of turning over power to his son.

North Korea is in grave economic difficulty, as the party Central Committee has officially admitted, and dissatisfaction in most of the North Korean elite is growing over Kim Chong-il, who is now taking charge of the party, the military, and the economy.

IZVESTIYA said that Kim Yong-chu is likely to take charge of personnel matters.

It added that Kim Il-song was worried over the future of his family after his death, so he had asked his brother to "forget the past humiliation and make efforts for unity of the party."

Kim Yong-chu was practically No. 2 man in North Korea in the 1960s and early 1970s, managing organizational and personnel matters for the party, but in 1975 he disappeared from the stage.

Then Kim Chong-il emerged from obscurity as No. 2 and potential successor to Kim Il-song, while Kim Yong-chu was absent from official events.

North Stresses Development of National Culture
SK181205193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0459 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—North Korea adopted a nine-point resolution that calls for strengthening the program of developing national culture at the sixth plenary meeting of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly on Thursday.

Workers' (Communist) Party Secretary Kim Ki-nam, in a report proposing the resolution, said the program was designed to construct a socialist culture, promote national pride in the 70 million Korean people and increase national enthusiasm for reunification.

The resolution calls for the discovery, restoration and conservation of cultural and historical remains, scientific study of these remains, socialist development of national culture, development of educational programs on national culture, and establishment of a law on the development of national culture, according to NAEWOE Press, Seoul's official North Korea watcher.

It appears that North Korea is trying to use the national culture development program to demonstrate the superiority of communism to the population and solicit their support for the Kim Il-song dynasty.

North Korea has announced the discovery of prehistoric remains, such as fossils of anthropoids, in the vicinity of Pyongyang to claim that the Korean peninsula is one of the cradles of civilization.

In October, it announced the discovery of the tomb of Korea's mythical founder near Pyongyang, saying the tomb confirms that the Korean people are a homogeneous race descended from one ancestor, Tangun.

North Korean media quoted Kim Il-song, on a visit to the tomb before the announcement of its discovery, as saying: "We have known Tangun in legend only, but we now know that he was the real founder of the country as we have discovered his tomb. This is historically very important."

Kim has visited the tomb of King Tongmyong, founder of the Koguryo Kingdom, several times. The tomb's restoration was completed in May.

North Korea has restored many historical sites on Kim's orders over the years, including the tomb of Koryo founder King Wangun, three ancient tombs in Kangso and Pohyon-sa temple on Mt. Myohyang.

North Korea boasts of a project to translate into modern Korean all the Chinese character-written classics of the country, such as the history of the three kingdoms, the chronicle of the Yi dynasty and tripitaka Koreana.

In all these cultural projects, under the program of developing national culture, North Korea stresses the

principle of "chuché (self-reliance)", saying national culture must be developed without any outside influence.

North Korean leaders call for a stepped-up fight against the imperialists and reactionaries who are trying to destroy the remains of national culture and history.

Kim Ki-nam said in his report that the national culture development program is very important for the Korean people, who suffer from the pain of national division imposed on them by foreign powers to achieve and maintain national unity and harmony.

South Korea's leaders were prolonging division by destroying national unity and playing up national heterogeneity, he charged.

This suggests that North Korea intends to use the program in its unification offensive against South Korea, analysts say.

The resolution last week calling for strengthening the program to develop national culture appears to have been prompted by North Korea's need to prove its historical and cultural legitimacy and to launch a new unification offensive against South Korea on the basis of this legitimacy.

French Help in Arms Fraud Investigation Sought
SK1812035093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Paris, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Embassy in Paris has asked the French Government to cooperate in its investigation of fraud involving a French arms dealer, Ambassador Chang Son-sop said Friday. Chang told reporters that he had made the request in a meeting with Claude-Marie Blanchemaison, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau.

"The French official promised to look into the truth of the incident and inform me of the outcome," the ambassador said. He explained to Blanchemaison details of the fraud, and that the mastermind is a man with French nationality, Chang said.

Since there is no way so far to confirm if the representative of the company involved in the fraud is a French national, the embassy was not in a position to formally ask the French Government to launch an investigation, he said.

It became known only recently that a French company called Efico cheated the Korean Defense Logistics Agency out of 6.7 million U.S. dollars.

Efico signed a contract with the agency for ammunition in 1991 but supplied fake bills of lading to claim the money. The shells were never shipped to Korea.

Military Prosecutors Conduct Probe

SK1812060893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0534 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Military prosecutors investigating a fraudulent contract, in which a French arms dealer cheated the Defense Logistics Agency of nearly 7 million U.S. dollars with false bills of lading, questioned procurement and bank officials on Saturday.

Two agency officers questioned Friday said that they received no report of any problems except a 5-percent reduction of payment due to "delayed shipment" and they had duly reported this to their superiors, a prosecution source said.

The officers, Army Col. Yun Sam-song and Navy Capt. To Chong-il, are section chiefs in charge of paperwork for overseas procurement.

The prosecution plans to question their superiors, who include Brig. Gen. Yun at the Logistics Agency.

"The business of shell importation is exclusively the duty of the head of the second procurement department," a retired brigadier general who was logistics commander at the agency at the time of the incident said Saturday.

He said that because he ranked above the procurement department head, he was given no report whatsoever on the incident or any information about fake bills of lading.

The prosecution has questioned a housing bank official and will call in commerce bank officials who handled the bills of lading.

The prosecution is trying to identify the French companies that signed the contract, Efico and Fec, but suspects that they are fronts created by a man named Jean Renet Juan, nationality unknown, for criminal purposes.

Former Logistics Chief Arrested

SK2012052893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—Defense Ministry prosecutors arrested two members of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) on Monday in connection with a French arms dealer's cheating the agency out of 6.7 million U.S. dollars.

Col. Yun Sam-song, 49, a former head of the DLA's foreign procurement section, and Yi Myong-goo, 45, a former ammunition procurement officer in Yoon's section, are suspected of conspiring with French arms dealer Jean-Rene Fuan and his Korean agent, Chu Kwang-yong, in the swindle.

Chu, an unlicensed arms broker, arranged the sale of artillery shells for Fuan in November 1990 on the

strength of his friendship with Yi, according to the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office, which questioned Yi on Sunday.

Chu fled to the United States via Japan on Dec. 15 and his whereabouts are unknown. He may now be in the Middle East, Hong Kong or France, sources said.

Government To Lift Oil Embargo on South Africa

SK1812024593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0216 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea will lift its oil embargo against South Africa from Dec. 20 with respect to nonracial democratic development in the country, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

Seoul, which has been gradually ending sanctions against South Africa, has decided to follow a recent resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to lift a 15-year-old nonbinding oil embargo against the country, which is preparing for nonracial elections next spring, the Ministry said.

The embargo related to investment in the petroleum industry, supply of petroleum and petroleum products will end, but a mandatory arms embargo imposed by the Security Council in 1977 is expected to remain in force until a new South African Government is formed after the elections.

President Welcomes Returning UR Delegation

SK1812052593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0514 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam gave delegates to the Uruguay Round [UR] trade negotiations a warm welcome home Saturday and instructed them to make an all-out effort to follow up the new world trade order, which takes effect in 1995. The high-power government delegation, led by Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng, returned Friday from Geneva after 117 UR-committed countries gave birth to the biggest-ever trade agreement on Wednesday.

The greatest interest was on Korea's rice market opening when the delegation embarked on last-ditch negotiations with the United States.

Despite a pledge to guard self-sufficiency on rice, the delegates succumbed to international pressure and the non-exceptional tariffication rule.

They did, however, manage to draw the most favorable terms for rice market opening with 1995-2004 tariffication grace period and minimum access of 1 percent to 4 percent.

Kim praised their success in winning more favorable conditions for Korea than other countries.

"We have to play a leading role in an internationalization era by setting follow-up measures in the wake of UR conclusion," Kim told the delegates, instructing them to consider setting up an organization to cope with internationalization.

Chongwadae [presidential office] will oversee measures to ease restrictions stated in the five-year economic plan to follow the liberalization world trend, Kim said.

"People now recognize the inevitability of partial rice market opening," he said, adding that the government must quickly map out a measure to save the farming industry.

Apart from Ho, Assistant Economic Planning Minister Kang Pong-kyun, Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Son Chon-yong, Assistant Finance Minister Yim Chang-yol, Assistant Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kim Kwang-hui, Assistant Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Pak On-so, and Choe Yang-pu, vice president of the Korea Rural Economics Institute, attended the breakfast meeting.

Prime Minister Denies Secret Deal With U.S.

SK1812085293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0842 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea made no secret promises with the United States in exchange for rice market opening, newly-appointed Prime Minister Yi Hoi-chang said Saturday.

Although President Kim Yong-sam couldn't keep his pledge to keep the rice market closed, he will have a chance to earn people's confidence when the Uruguay Round [UR] results are submitted for National Assembly approval, he said.

"It's not true that South Korea made excessive concessions in financial and other sectors because of the rice market," Yi told the National Assembly on its final session this year.

"There was no promise to import rice only from the United States or to buy American-made Patriot missiles," said the prime minister, appointed just two days ago in the first major cabinet reshuffle since the president took office in February.

Yi, former head of the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI), had spearheaded Kim's reform drive.

The reshuffle, announced as reflection of Kim's will to prepare for coming age of internationalization and post-UR trade, is to affect other members of the cabinet in a sweeping realignment early next week.

"President Kim will have a chance to win people's confidence when UR results are put to National Assembly approval next April," he said.

"I understand that the people are concerned because I am not an economic expert," he said, "but I don't think

that inputting an economist when other areas are not sound will improve the economic situation."

"As I am in a position to oversee the administrative branch, I will try my best to harmonize reform with economic revitalization," said Yi.

Foreign Ministry Prepares for Post-UR Trade

SK1812095493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0944 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Saturday his ministry is reviewing operational upgrading of attaches at South Korean overseas missions to ready for post-Uruguay Round [UR] trade. But the upgrading should be in quality rather than in number, he told the National Assembly.

"We are in the middle of reviewing improvement plans for attaches at overseas missions to strengthen external trade duties and negotiation power following the Uruguay Round," Han said. But the number of attaches from trade and industry, agriculture, finance and other economic ministries already account for 109 out of total 207 attaches, the foreign minister explained.

"It's more important to seek qualitative improvement rather than increasing the numbers," said Han.

The presidential office announced earlier that it wants to gradually reduce the number of attaches dispatched from other government ministries. He denied reports that South Korea had prior agreement with the United States before the Geneva negotiations early this month on rice market opening.

"There was no pre-bargaining of any kind," he said.

Opposition Calls for Referendum on GATT

SK1912025693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
19 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday [18 December] grilled the "lameduck" administration on the just-concluded Uruguay Round [UR] talks and government counter steps to cope with the opening of the rice market and economic ministers who are mostly destined to be replaced early next week just gave tepid answers. All Cabinet members have tendered resignations and a new lineup is to be announced on or about Tuesday.

Through interpellations on the last day of the 100-day regular session, lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the opposition Democratic Party [DP] focused their questions on problems that surfaced in the course of the country's negotiations at the UR talks.

The regular session ended yesterday after passing 157 bills including the much-touted revision to the law governing the Agency for National Security Planning, and a law forbidding eavesdropping and other bills connected to the people's livelihood. But the Assembly

failed to act on election laws and laws on political funding, considered the backbone for reform of the political circle as pushed by President Kim Yong-sam, as parties failed to narrow their differences.

They are expected to be dealt with during an extra session of the Assembly probably early next year.

The rival parties maintained widely different positions over the election-related laws, mainly on the scope of punishment against violators.

They also differed on lowering the eligible voting age and whether to allow joint stumping rallies during election campaigns.

The DP wants the voting age lowered to 18 and favors maintaining joint stumping rallies while the DLP is intent on keeping the present voting age of 20, and objects to joint rallies.

During the interpellation session in the presence of new Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang and other relevant ministers, lawmakers denounced the government for failing to effectively cope with the UR negotiations.

The DP lawmakers, in particular, asserted the government had made a secret agreement with the United States to open the rice market in November, even before the Korean negotiation team left for Geneva.

They also demanded President Kim step down for failing to protect the rice market, citing his promise to prevent rice imports, even at the risk of his presidency during the presidential campaign last year.

From the ruling DLP, Rep. So Sang-mok alleged, "There is suspicion that the country agreed to purchase U.S. rice first in order to get favorable conditions in the UR talks."

He also asked about government measures to ensure further development of agricultural regions to cope with the impact of the UR negotiations. For this, he asserted, special taxes should be considered.

Rep. Yu In-hak of the DP said, "President Kim should resign or conduct a national referendum immediately on the rice issue to keep his promise made during the presidential campaign."

Rep. Kim Won-kil of the DP called on the government to thoroughly reshape the five-year new economy plan, saying situations at home and abroad have changed with the UR conclusion.

Pak Chan-chong of the splinter New Party for Political Reform asked what measures the government had in preparation for looming international negotiations on environmental problems, tentatively named the "Green Round."

He demanded President Kim take responsibility for his failing to efficiently deal with the UR negotiations.

Tariffs To Cease on Semiconductors, Other Goods

SK1712014793 Seoul *THE KOREA HERALD* in English 17 Dec 93 p 8

[Text] The government will have to eliminate tariffs imposed on semiconductors, computers, paper and toys during the next five to 15 years.

In addition, tariffs on scientific instruments and nonferrous metals will be lowered by 50 to 65 percent. These tariff cuts are contained in a package of tariff concessions on industrial and fishery products that the government has submitted to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The package contains 260 items in seven sectors, including steel products and chemicals, in which tariffs are scheduled to be eliminated or reduced, the Ministry of Finance said yesterday.

The Ministry said the number of items whose tariffs will be lowered or removed increased by eight from the government's earlier commitment.

Last month, the government promised to the GATT that it would lower or eliminate tariffs on 252 items. But the government agreed to eliminate tariffs on seven additional items and lower the tariff of another item when Asian and Pacific leaders met in Seattle later in the month. The eight new items include bulldozers, conveyors and medical sterilizers.

In accordance with the concessions, the government will remove tariffs imposed on semiconductors during the next five years. Computers and their peripherals will be allowed to be imported tariff-free during the next 10 years. The government will remove tariffs on 41 paper items in 10 to 15 years and those on toys in 10 years.

In five to 10 years, the government will lower tariffs on scientific instruments by an average of 65 percent and tariffs on nonferrous metals by 50 percent. The tariff on copper will be eliminated during the next 10 years.

When all tariff concessions are implemented, tariffs on 8,142 industrial and fishery products, or 90 percent of the total products, will be bound to the Uruguay Round accord. The average bound tariff will decline more than half from 17.9 percent in 1986 to 8.2 percent in 1999, the Ministry said. With the effective tariff rates averaging 8.9 percent, the Ministry said, bound tariff cuts will have no significant effect on imports.

22 Import Items on High Adjustment Tariff List

SK1812014793 Seoul *THE KOREA HERALD* in English 18 Dec 93 p 8

[Text] The Ministry of Finance yesterday placed 22 import items, including mud-fish, oak mushrooms and Chinese vermicelli, on its list to be applied with high adjustment tariffs, in 1994, while excluding two, stick candy and mica products, from it.

The adjustment tariff is used to increase the tariff rate by up to 100 percent in order to protect newly liberalized import items which are expected to become competitive after a short period of protection.

The 22 items break down into agricultural goods that are expected to hurt local farmers (sliced-and-dried radish and fermented soybean lumps); products of small-to-midsize companies that need protection either for domestic products or employment stabilization (cotton globe, toothpicks and personal computer mainboards); and items whose imports are likely to surge because of the wide price gap between here and abroad (sugar, raw yarn and plywood).

The adjustment tariffs for these items will be between 8 percent and 100 percent, instead of their basic rate of 3-30 percent, throughout next year.

On the contrary, the tariff rates for the two excluded items will return to the basic rate of 8 percent from the adjustment rates of 27-30 percent now.

In another tariff readjustment, the ministry will reduce the number of import items to the import-encouraging tariff quotas from the present 40 to 31 next year, officials said. The tariff quota system is used to encourage the import of certain items by reducing the tariff rate by a maximum of 40 percent.

The reduction will give the government an increased tariff revenue of 44.4 billion won next year, officials said.

Institute Estimates UR Damages to Rice Industry

SK1812024193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Korea will import an estimated 475.9 million U.S. dollars worth of rice from 1995 to 2004 under its rice deal in the Uruguay Round trade accord, causing 1.11 trillion won (1.3 billion dollars) of damage to the country's farmers, a think tank said Saturday.

In the world trade pact that takes effect in 1995, Korea is pledged to allow minimum imports of between 1 percent and 4 percent of gross domestic consumption of rice for 10 years, which is the grace period before complete opening by tariffication.

Rice imports will be 21.15 million dollars in the first year the market partly opens and 84.59 million dollars in 2004, or a total of 475.9 million dollars over the 10 years, the Korea Rural Economics Institute said.

It estimated the damage to the farming industry at 52.8 billion won the first year growing to 190.38 billion won in 2004, for a total of 1,119.3 billion won.

The 1995-2000 damage estimate of 488.6 billion won is 4.5 trillion won less than the 4.98 trillion won forecast

with minimum market access of between 3 percent and 5 percent, which was recommended in the initial arthur dunkel draft.

An 80-kilogram sack of Korean rice will cost 84,878 won in 1995 based on 1990 market prices, according to the institute, rise to 86,818 won in 2001, fall to 86,709 won in 2002 and drop to 86,328 won by 2004.

Savings to consumers profit from the small rises are estimated at 53.1 billion won in 1995, surging to 194.9 billion won by 2004, for a total of 1.13 trillion won in the 10 years.

Rice consumption is forecast to sink 6.7 percent to 4.82 million tons in 2004 from 1992's 5.15 million tons while output plunges 10.9 percent to 4.6 million tons in 2004 from last year's 5.16 million tons.

Rice self-sufficiency is likely to drop from 100 percent to 98.89 percent in 1995, 98.32 percent in 1997, 97.73 percent in 1999, 97.13 percent in 2001, 95.92 percent in 2003, and 95.3 percent in 2004.

The institute based its projections on rice imports of 1 percent to 2 percent of 1986-98 consumption in 1995-1999 and 2 percent to 4 percent in 2000-2004.

It based the import price on Californian rice, calculated the exchange rate at one dollar per 800 won, and assumed that the government is the sole importer and uses the rice for processing only, so it is not sold on the open market, a researcher said, adding that the estimation could slightly change.

Protesters Hold Rally Outside U.S. Embassy

SK1812110393 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1020 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] The Pan-National Emergency Ad Hoc Committee To Check the Importation of Basic Agricultural Produce Including Rice held the third pan-national rally, composed of students and citizens, at the Seoul Chongmyo Park on the afternoon of 18 December. The participants repeatedly urged the government to immediately withdraw its policy to open the rice market.

The committee, through a resolution, held that the opening of the rice market stems from the government's subservient diplomacy and idle measures, and urged the National Assembly to hold a hearing at once to unveil the truth.

After winding up the rally, the participants marched toward Sejong-ro and attempted to form a so-called human chain around the U.S. Embassy. They, however, failed to stage the activity because the police blocked their way so they continued to stage the demonstration in the areas near Chonggak.

Further on Try at 'Human Chain'

SK1912023293 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
19 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] Student activists, attempting to form a human chain around the U.S. Embassy and the Integrated Government Complex, both in Kwanghwamun, to protest the opening of the domestic rice market to imports, clashed violently with police yesterday [18 December]. Some 1,000 students, mostly from Hanchongnyon, or the Korea Federation of University Student Councils, initiated the formation of the human chain at 3:30 p.m. but were held back by numerically superior riot police in full combat gear.

More than 1,400 riot police troops had been mobilized and stationed near the two sites to clear the area and make certain that the human chain attempt was foiled.

Even as the clashes took place, the students surrounded the two premises, waving banners that called for the government to change its position on the imminent opening of the local rice market in accordance with the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The major demonstration, the second this week around the U.S. Embassy, caused considerable traffic congestion in the Kwanghwamun area before it broke up later in the afternoon.

The protest was part of demonstrations organized by Pomdaewi, roughly translated to the Pan-National Committee for Thwarting the Import of Rice and Other Basic Farm Products.

Pomdaewi declared yesterday as the day for the third collective struggle by citizens, students, farmers and activists and launched various protests across the country.

Before the attempt to form a human chain around the embassy and the government complex, the student activists gathered in selected spots in the metropolitan area to distribute pamphlets and gather protest signatures.

The students, in coalition with Pomdaewi, have been pursuing a campaign for the collection of more than 10 million signatures to be sent to the National Assembly and the presidential office.

The conclusion of the UR talks Dec. 15 and the adoption of the subsequent declaration automatically meant that the domestic rice market would have to be open to foreign competition in 1995.

New Prime Minister Addresses National Assembly

SK1812051893 Seoul *YONHAP* in English 0505 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Yi Hoi-chang told the National Assembly on Saturday that

he would place emphasis on promoting the convenience and benefit of the public in assisting the president and heading the cabinet. In his address to the National Assembly, Yi said, "I will make my best efforts to get the nation to progress and take off afresh on the basis of the reform being pushed in each field so that this country can take an important position in international society in the era of internationalization and openness."

Yi Si-yun, who replaced Yi as chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection [BAI], told the Assembly that under him the BAI's focus will be preventing irregularities and injustice by public officials rather than investigating past wrongdoings.

Top Three DLP Officials, Spokesman Resign

SK2012011393 Seoul *YONHAP* in English 0058 GMT
20 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party on Monday accepted the resignations of three of its top office holders and its spokesman in order to carry out personnel changes in the party along with a reshuffle of the cabinet expected Tuesday.

The three top postholders are Hwang Myong-su, secretary-general, Kim Chong-ho, chairman of the policy committee, and Kim Yong-ku, floor leader in the National Assembly. The party spokesman is Kang Chae-sop.

DLP chairman Kim Chong-pil received their resignations at a meeting of postholders Monday morning and is expected to relay them to President Kim Yong-sam, who is also president of the party, Monday afternoon, spokesman Kang said.

Party Resignations Denied

SK1812062593 Seoul *YONHAP* in English 0544 GMT
18 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, recalling his moment of triumph as a presidential candidate exactly a year ago, vowed Saturday to make a fresh start for his administration in the new year. Presiding over a luncheon meeting with senior presidential secretaries at Chongwadae [presidential office], Kim said that the reason he was eating lunch with them was to reaffirm their resolution a year before and make another one for a fresh start.

Aware, perhaps, of criticism from some quarters of the sudden and unexpected appointment of Yi Hoe-chang as prime minister, Kim said it was unintentional.

Kim said he had denied that he was contemplating a cabinet reshuffle until two days before Yi's appointment because negotiations in the Uruguay Round were still going on.

—Yi Ki-tae, chairman of the main opposition Democratic Party, received courtesy calls from newly

appointed Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang and his replacement at the Board of Audit and Inspection, Yi Si-yun, Saturday morning.

Yi Ki-taek told them that the expectations of the Democratic Party and the people for them are great, and urged them to exercise fully the rights granted them by the Constitution.

Although the nation has the presidential system of government, there is a lot of work for the prime minister to do under the Constitution, Yi Ki-taek said.

"The governmental work has been wavering as we have witnessed in the Uruguay Round of negotiations," he said. "The prime minister, therefore, should restore equilibrium to the government and enable the people to live a predictable life."

—Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang visited the national cemetery early Saturday morning to pay his respects to those who gave their lives for the country. Yi then called on Kim Chong-pil, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], before attending a National Assembly plenary session called to question the government on the outcome of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

—Despite persistent rumors, postholders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party did not tender their resignations en masse Saturday, promoting speculation that a much-heralded party reorganization will come next week.

Following a meeting of senior party officials presided over by chairman Kim Chong-pil, party Spokesman Kang Chae-sop said there was no mention of resignations. Earlier, Kim Chong-pil told reporters at his home that there was nothing more for the party than to attend the National Assembly session Saturday, putting a damper on rising speculation that party postholders would resign from their posts this week.

Hwang Myong-su, DLP secretary-general, proposed Friday that in order to give President Kim a free hand, party office holders should resign. But Kim Chong-pil put a brake on his proposal by saying what was important now was to complete the regular session of the National Assembly.

Lucky-Goldstar To Import Russian Helicopters

SK1712014593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Dec 93 p 8

[From the "Economic Bulletin" column]

[Text] Lucky-Goldstar International, the trading arm of the Lucky-Goldstar Group, will bring in two helicopters from Russia through Kimpo International Airport today. They are KA-32T models manufactured by Kumertau Aircraft Production Enterprise of Russia. Lucky-Goldstar International is the first Korean enterprise to import helicopters from Russia.

The two copters will be delivered to the Forestry Administration to be used for putting out mountain fires, disseminating pesticides, rescuing people or transporting heavy equipment, a company spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, they are 11.3m long, 3.5m wide, weigh 6.61kg, have a maximum speed of 250km per hour, accommodate 18 persons and can lift 5-ton loads.

In a contract on the deal signed with the Russian company in September, Lucky-Goldstar also agreed with it to set up a joint venture to market KA-32T copters in Korea and third countries and provide after-sales services as well.

Planning Board Says Economy Enters New Cycle

SK1712055993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0520 GMT
17 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—The South Korean economy has entered the 10th business cycle since the Korean war (1950-53) and has started to expand, according to the Economic Planning Board.

Although the national statistical office has not yet officially said when the ninth cycle ended, government economists put the end in January with the economy having begun to recover from its state of low activity in that month. By that estimate, the ninth business cycle lasted 42 months from July 1987 to January 1993 and was the shortest cycle since the fifth, which lasted 38 months from April 1972 to June 1975.

The first cycle lasted from January 1957 to August 1958, the second from September 1958 to September 1961, the third from October 1961 to February 1964, the fourth from March 1964 to March 1972, the fifth from April 1972 to June 1975, the sixth from July 1975 to September 1980, the seventh from October 1980 to September 1985, and the eighth from October 1985 to June 1987.

The nine cycles averaged 51 months in length and had expansion and contraction periods of 34 months and 17 months, respectively.

The gross national product, excluding agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, rose between 1 percentage point and 12 percentage points in the expansion periods and fell between 5 percentage points and 16 percentage points in the contraction periods.

Petrochemical Industry Predicts Trade Surplus

SK1712060193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT
17 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—The Korea Petrochemical Industry Association (KPIA) forecast a trade surplus Friday of 160 million U.S. dollars for the petrochemical industry this year despite the global recession.

KPIA projected exports at 2.82 billion dollars, and imports at 2.66 billion dollars for the industry's first ever trade surplus.

Three major petrochemical products—synthetic resin, esin, synthetic fiber and synthetic rubber—were imported in 1991, but after the Samung and Hyundai groups and other companies expanded production facilities there was excessive overproduction.

The trade deficit was 1.09 billion dollars in 1986, 1.62 billion dollars in 1987, 2.56 billion dollars in 1988, 2.73 billion dollars in 1989, 2.13 billion dollars in 1990, 1.62 billion dollars in 1991, and 7 million dollars in 1992.

The surplus was caused by massive exports at low prices, KPIA said, predicting a petrochemical trade surplus of 500 million dollars next year.

Ministry Predicts \$500-Million Travel Deficit

SK1712080293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703 GMT
17 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—This year's travel deficit will be 500 million U.S. dollars, the Transportation Ministry said Friday. The estimation was made at a second tourism promotion meeting presided over by Transportation Minister Chong Chae-sok. The meeting was held in preparations for Visit Korea Year 1994. The travel deficit was 454 million dollars in January-October, when 2.74 million foreigners entered, up 0.1 percent from the same period last year. The number will be 3.3 million by the end of the year, up 0.91 percent.

In the same 10 months, 1.98 million Koreans went abroad and the number will be 2.4 million by the end of the year, up 17.6 percent.

Travel revenue was 2.88 billion dollars and spending was 3.33 billion dollars, both up 4.6 percent.

The ministry goal is 4.5 million foreigners and 4.5 billion dollars in revenue next year.

Burma**Khun Sa on Political Goals, Drug Trade**

BK1912042793 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 19 Dec 93 p 21

[Report on undated interview with Shan leader Khun Sa: "Khun Sa: Panglong Agreement give Shans independence right"]

[Text] Fresh from the swearing-in ceremony in Shan State's "Parliament" and clad in traditional Shan garb, the new president, Khun Sa, told Sunday Perspective: "Today, we have established our own country. All the power is in our people who would have no involvement with Burma, and we will drive all the foreigners [the Burmese troops] back to their homes.

"The Burmese government has oppressed the Shan people for a long time. Now they must withdraw from our territory. The Shan State has the right to be independent from Burma and to have autonomy according to the Panglong Agreement of 1947," Khun Sa asserted.

The Shan joined the Burmese in shaping plans for Burma's independence from the British on condition that they retain their traditional freedom. Their position is clearly stated in the historic Panglong Agreement of 1947, which in part reads: "Full autonomy in internal administration for the Frontier Areas [Kachin, Chin, and Shan states] is accepted in principle."

Shan State now has about eight million people. Khun Sa claimed that 60 per cent of the state's population and its territory is under his control. He added that there had been more than eight million Shan people, but those living on arid land had been forced by hardship to move to southern China, southern Burma, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

To the Shan people, Khun Sa is a patriot with impeccable credentials in the Shan resistance. But to the U.S. authorities, he is the "Prince of Death", a dangerous drug dealer whom they have indicted in a New York court on 10 counts of drug trafficking. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has put him on a list of seven or so major figures in the drug underworld, part of the agency's new strategy of going after "kingpins".

"I don't grow poppies," insisted Khun Sa, adding, "I'm working for a political cause and for the freedom of my country. It is my people who grow poppies. Shan people are not the only tribe to get involved in the drug trade. The Wah, the Kokang, and even the Burmese Government are also involved."

He said he has issued several invitations to countries, especially the U.S., to help him develop his country, but so far none have been accepted.

Khun Sa said he hopes U.S. President Bill Clinton will help Shan State drive the Shan's main enemy, the Burmese government's troops, out of his country. He

pledged cooperation with the U.S. government in uprooting poppies in his country, insisting that opium would disappear from Shan State as soon as the governments of developed countries, like America, Japan and others, help him develop his country through aid.

"I have sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton to ask him to help Shan State," he said.

Khun Sa, whose real name is Chang Si-fu, was born in 1933 in Lo Maw township where his father was town chief under the feudal lord of Mong Yai State. Of mixed Shan-Chinese blood, he grew up amid the tea plantations of the surrounding hills. He had only elementary schooling and, even today, all correspondence is read to him and his replies are dictated.

Khun Sa claimed that his opium production totalled about 4,000 tons last year, and he estimated that this year's total would be 5,000 to 6,000 tons.

Asked why his opium production is rising every year if he has offered a six-year plan to reduce opium production to 200 tons a year, he snapped: "You should ask Maj-Gen Khin Nyunt rather than me!" Khun Sa has often accused the Burmese authorities of helping guard the opium caravans of ethnic minorities in the area.

The refining and distribution of heroin is something that Khun Sa has always denied involvement in, although observers of the Asian narcotics trade say differently.

In April 1977, Congressman Lester Wolff, then chairman of the U.S. House Select Committee on Narcotics, sent his emissary Joseph Nellis to meet with Khun Sa who promised to cooperate with the international community to fight against narcotics and submitted a six-year plan to eradicate opium poppies in Shan State. It was rejected by the Carter Administration on July 18 the same year.

On the other hand, in the early 1970s, the U.S. paid \$35.7 million for the output of Turkey's poppy farmers at a time when 80 per cent of America's heroin came from Turkey. In 1972, in the Golden Triangle—the major opium-producing area where the borders of Laos, Burma and Thailand meet—the U.S. bought 26 tons of opium for \$1 million from General Li, an ex-Kuomintang officer who was the most powerful drug lord at the time.

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Khun Sa's offer included plans for crop replacement, similar to the current United Nations policy.

On three separate occasions in the past, the Shan have made overtures to the West. After Khun Sa proposed his six-year plan to the U.S. in 1971, former drug kingpin Lo Hsing-han and the Shan State Army (SSA) offered to sell all the opium controlled by their armies to any international body in 1973, inviting U.S. narcotic agents to be independent observers. In 1975, a joint offer was made by the SSA and the Shan United Army (the forerunner of Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army) to sell their annual opium crop. The proposals were rejected.

"Why do DEA officials and other troops only cut down the stems and tops of poppies, not the roots?" he asked.

"By uprooting all opium plants, there could be no processing of heroin. The problems associated with addiction would go away, disarming those who would legalise drugs. Within five to seven years, opium from the Golden Triangle would not exist. We have the ability and the desire. We will do the work, but we need your help."

Khun Sa added that he had tried to reduce drug production in Shan State, but the U.S. had ignored his attempts, and tried to make small things into a big problem.

"It's not difficult to eliminate drugs. If the U.S. wants to do so they should come in and develop the poppy fields. People grow poppies because they are neglected by the Burmese Government. Is it my fault? I have only collected tax from them when they passed through my country, to feed my soldiers and people."

His organisation only taxes crop exports, he claimed, contrary to the DEA's accusations that it buys the opium, runs the refineries that turn it into heroin, brings in the chemicals and makes contacts with international dealers.

"Khun Sa has the three largest refineries in Southeast Asia," said one narcotics expert in Mae Hong Son, the Thai border town closest to the Shan capital of Ho Mong. "Their capacity is huge—hundreds of kilos of heroin. Khun Sa is like a corporate head. He has sold the concession to Haw Chinese, who refine about 30 per cent of his opium production."

Khun Sa was captured and briefly held in the 1970s by the Burmese, but apparently was released in exchange for two Russian doctors kidnapped by his men in the Shan city of Taunggyi. The rest of Burma which is controlled by the Burmese government has little natural resources compared to Shan State, according to Khun Sa, which is the main reason why the Burmese government desires to occupy his territory.

Both Burma and Thailand have put an enormous price on Khun Sa's head. Over the years, the two nations have made countless attempts to capture him, without success.

In the past decade, opium production records have been broken yearly in the mountainous Golden Triangle area. The region accounts for 70 per cent of the world's heroin,

and as more of its heroin has reached the U.S., the average purity of the drug when it reaches America's streets has increased from three to 26 per cent. At this level, it no longer has to be injected, but can be snorted or smoked, making it the drug of choice among a growing number of young Americans.

According to unofficial U.S. government estimates, there are now roughly one million heroin addicts in the U.S., or more than twice the number reckoned during heroin's "heyday" in the 1960s and 1970s. U.S. drug enforcers have put the notorious Khun Sa high on their wanted list. But many ethnic Shan have found prosperity and refuge from a repressive Burmese government in his territory.

Khun Sa said his forces have been attacked 43 times by Thai troops, closely advised by the DEA. The Thais deployed 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers each time, using helicopters and aircraft in some of the raids. He said his people and property have been lost, but no drugs have been seized. On the other side, Burmese troops continue their campaign against the Shan, spraying dangerous herbicides which destroy the people's crops, orchards and rice paddies. The soil has become unsuitable for cultivation.

The threat arising from close relations among Burma, China and Thailand has caused much suffering to many ethnic minorities, including the Karen, Mon and Kachin, who found their sanctuaries in neighbouring countries cut off. The cooperation given to Burma by its neighbours is understandable considering what they stand to gain. Khun Sa said it is normal that when the U.S. withdrew from the region, China stepped in to fill the void.

He said he wants the Japanese government and all investors to give Shan State money to help it develop in exchange for gem-mining and logging concessions.

"I want Japan to help our country. Japan is rich. Shan State must have friends like Japan. That is all I hope for," he said.

Khun Sa May Have Traded Heroin for Missiles

*BK1812011793 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Dec 93 p A1*

[Text] Reputed drugs warlord Khun Sa may have traded heroin for a stock of deadly surface-to-air missiles from the secret Chanthaburi arms depot uncovered during a police raid almost two weeks ago, western military intelligence sources claim. As many as 14 of the Chinese-made missiles were handed over to Khun Sa for heroin by some Thai army officers only a short time before the depot came to light. The sources said if Khun Sa's Muang Tai army has the heat-seeking weapons, it would put at risk covert aerial surveillance of the world's major opium producing area in northeastern Burma. They said

between 12 and 14 of the SA-7 shoulder-held missiles, better known as SAM-7, had been stockpiled at the cache in Makham district.

"There is an 80 per cent chance" that the heat-seeking missiles, which can knock out sophisticated jet fighters like the Thai Air Force's F-16s, or lowflying propeller surveillance planes, were handed over to Khun Sa, a western source, quoting Thai military intelligence, said.

US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) officers stationed in Bangkok, who were aware of the stockpile of SAM-7s in Chanthaburi, became suspicious when Border Patrol police recently stopped a vehicle reportedly taking one of the missiles to the Burmese border. They later found that all of the missiles were missing.

The sources said new arrangements have been made for the secret surveillance flights of the Burmese region where Khun Sa is now located. The Thai aircraft now must operate at above 10,000 feet, outside of the range of the missiles. As a result, photographic surveys of poppy fields would be less accurate.

Since the discovery of the massive arms cache in Chanthaburi's Makham district, speculation has been rife that weapons destined for the Khmer Rouge were being diverted to anti-Rangoon factions because of Thailand's adherence to the 1991 Paris Peace Accord on Cambodia.

The sources said that with limited access to hard cash, groups like Khun Sa's Muang Tai having been paying for badly-needed weapons with processed heroin. They said the weapons were being delivered by a specific group of Thai army officers.

Some sources claimed that several of the Burmese factions have had stockpiles of surface-to-air missiles for some time. But there was considerable concern about the possibility of Khun Sa taking delivery of the SAM-7 missiles because of the effect on drug surveillance operations. It would have meant that the aerial surveillance planes switching to a higher and less effective level, or the drug enforcement agencies using advanced jet fighters with on-board missile deflecting technology.

The SAM-7 was originally a Russian design, but was successfully copied by China. It is regarded as the communist equivalent of the United States-made, but now outdated, Redeye.

The Counter Corruption Commission [CCC] is investigating an alleged irregularity in the purchase of helium gas for two balloons used for training parachutists in Lopburi. Army sources said one of the three people under investigation is regarded as a fast-riser in the army with close links to top leaders.

According to a leaked CCC document sent to the Army headquarters, dated Nov 15, the most senior of the three has the rank of major general. Another is a lieutenant colonel and the third is a lieutenant. The CCC document asked for more information about allegations of an excessive order of gas for the balloons. It said that

helium worth Bt2.09 million was ordered from MPK (Thailand) Co without a public bid. The sources said that was enough helium to fill the Lopburi army division's two training balloons, yet only one balloon was operational. The other balloon had been damaged, and an excess of helium worth about Bt800,000 was not needed.

Fishing Boats Warned To Avoid Test Drill Site

BK1412152493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] In accordance with the agreement signed between the Myanmar [Burma] Oil and Gas Enterprise and Texaco Exploration Myanmar Incorporated, test oil drilling will be conducted for approximately 45 days beginning on 10 December at the Yetagun-East-2 test oil well, located in concession block M-13 off of Tenasserim. The Fisheries Department has issued a mariners' notice prohibiting fishing vessels from entering the restricted area of block M-13—between latitude 13 degrees, 3 minutes, and 56.6 seconds North and longitude 93 degrees, 54 minutes, and 12.9 seconds East—during the test oil drilling period.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Trade Minister on Gains From GATT Pact

BK2012062793 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Dec 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.—Malaysia will enjoy more than 45 per cent tariff cuts by its major export markets following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round trade talks, which in turn will propel the national economy to greater growth.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the tariff cuts on manufactured products in Malaysia's three major markets—the United States, Japan and the European Community (EC)—covered about RM34 [Ringgit Malaysia] billion worth of exports.

"As the Malaysian economic expansion is mainly driven by high growth in exports of manufactured goods, the lower tariff for exports will definitely boost the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," she said at a Press conference at her office in Jalan Duta today.

Merchandise exports accounted for about 65 per cent of the GDP last year. Exports of manufactured goods alone constituted about 45 per cent of the GDP.

A preliminary assessment by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on the tariff offers made by Malaysia's trading partners showed that imports of industrial goods from Malaysia to the United States would be subjected to only 2.8 per cent tariff (compared

with six per cent prior to the Round) and one per cent for agriculture products (1.6 per cent previously).

The EC, on the other hand, reduced tariff for imports of Malaysian industrial products from 5.3 per cent to 3.8 per cent; and from eight per cent to 5.1 per cent for agriculture products.

Rafidah said Malaysia had agreed to open up 64 sectors and sub-sectors in the services field to foreign participation.

"In accepting the results of the Round, the Government is also committed to further liberalise the services sector, which will be undertaken in a progressive manner...commensurating with the level of the country's economic development and the development of the domestic services sector," she added.

Many foreign countries have accused Malaysia of protecting its services sector, especially in finance and banking.

Rafidah said Malaysia had offered substantial liberalisation, most-favoured nation treatment and national treatment in several areas of the services sector. For instance, substantial offers had been made in professional services, computer services, audiovisual services, maritime and aviation, transport services as well as consultancy.

The Minister said Malaysia had concluded negotiations with all major trading partners. Ninety-five participants had submitted their schedules covering agricultural and non-agricultural products.

In the market access negotiations, Malaysia had offered to reduce and bind tariffs on 7,218 items comprising 6,016 industrial goods and 1,202 agricultural products.

Malaysia's tariff offers cover 79 per cent of total imports or RM80.1 billion worth of imports (based on 1992 figures).

The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round would help check the increasing protectionist tendencies and contribute to the strengthening of the world multilateral trading system, Rafidah said. She said the Uruguay Round results would be embodied in the Final Act which provides for the establishment of the Multilateral Trade Organisation (MTO).

A ministerial meeting will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from April 12 to 15 1994 to formally adopt the Final Act.

Rafidah said the Uruguay Round agreements were expected to come into force from Jan 1, 1995. She added that the Cabinet's endorsement would be obtained on the Final Act before she leaves for the ministerial meeting.

Minister Calls GATT Package 'Major Setback'

BK1812145393 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Primary Industries Minister Datuk Sri Lim Keng Yaik expressed disappointment that the agricultural package concluded under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations only benefits the major industrialized countries. He described the U.S.-EC agreement on agriculture as a major setback toward efforts to create a more liberal agricultural trading system. The United States was not consistent in its plan during the negotiating process, particularly on the issue of agriculture subsidies.

He added that Malaysia, as a major agricultural producing and exporting nation, is not satisfied with the agricultural package. The outcome was based on the final pact reached between the United States and the EC. The minister believes that industrialized countries have not shown sincerity in carrying out reforms in their agricultural sector. These countries also ignored an ASEAN countries' request, made during the talks, regarding the reduction of agricultural subsidies. The minister said the agricultural package will result in an additional 1.2 million tonnes of subsidized vegetable oil entering the world market in the 1995-2000 period. This will prolong unhealthy competition in global trade.

Editorial Views Conclusion of GATT Talks

BK2012105093 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 19 Dec 93 p 14

[Editorial: "End of Uruguay Run-a-Round"]

[Text] Perhaps the biggest irony in international trade is that the freer it becomes, the more rule-bound it turns out to be. Thus, the belated conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) last week was hailed as the biggest trade deal ever, both in its direct effect and in its volume of paperwork. In spite of the posturing and brinkmanship in Geneva, most of its 116 membership knew that some sort of bargain would be struck before the deadline of Dec. 15—gravity could not be defied indefinitely. The United States-European Community accord was hardly a historic outcome. What was extraordinary was that the rest of the membership in the historic round were left simply to twiddle thumbs in the sidelines. World trade is captive to the same nations as is world politics and its conduct is therefore just as awry.

Trade between nations has acquired a political dimension far in excess of its economic one; leaving its flows to be dictated and circumscribed by lawyers rather than by the producers and consumers of goods and services. Experience proves that even the unilateral freeing up of markets is good for the overall economy—by making producers more competitive and efficient and consumers better off.

But because trade proceeds from the bartering of concessions in an adversarial parley, its manifest benefits can be held back or offered up on the whim of politics. The Geneva negotiations pitted the unabashed self-interest of each of its two contending participants. How such self-interest can fail to be enlightened remains as probably the second biggest irony in international trade.

Unless protection is highly selective and temporary, for instance, in giving fledgling industries a head start against foreign competition, it would only serve to cosset inefficient producers and promote the misallocation of resources. Malaysia has become wise to this, both from its track record as an open trading economy and because its industries have not yet begun to insinuate themselves into stubborn political interests. Exposure to international competition, as well as agreements, is, thus, an important way of obviating such an outcome. For this country at least, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round is rather cosmetic icing on a cake that has been in preparation for some time. Where many outspoken developing countries have criticised GATT for being outrageously skewed by its main Western industrial members, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has listed out its own schedule of compliance well in advance. Anticipating a 45 percent tariff cut in its major export markets, which would confer an immediate boost to GDP, Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz said that 7,218 items, comprising 79 percent of imports and worth some RM [Malaysian ringgit] 80 billion, are due for lower duties.

The new GATT's provisions on visible trade alone would chalk up an estimated U.S. \$200 billion (RM500 billion) increase in world trade. Less easily guessed at is its impact on cross-border flows in services, which has never been under the GATT purview. Rafidah said that 64 sectors and subsectors are to be yielded to foreign participation, including professional, computer, and audiovisual services, maritime and aviation, transport, and consultancy. This should help local companies forge linkages with leading-edge foreign corporations, one of the means identified by the Outline Perspective Plan to sharpen local efficiency and competitive ability.

A third irony of international trade lies in the nomenclature of the GATT itself whose members are not strictly so but are termed "contracting parties." It has never been a fully-fledged organisation after the U.S. Congress withheld endorsement soon after its initiation in 1947. The implementation of the final act is to lead to the formation of the multilateral trade organisation, a more formalised arrangement for the supervision of trade rules. Part of the unnecessary anxiety over international trade has been the flimsiness of the GATT itself.

Singapore

Cambodia's Hun Sen Views Plan to Build Highway

BK1812153693 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 18 Dec 93 p 1

[By Harish Mehta]

[Text] Singapore—The Singapore Government has helped Cambodia prepare a master plan to build a 300-kilometer highway—dubbed the "highway for development corridor"—linking the capital Phnom Penh to the southern port city of Sihanoukville, said visiting Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The corridor is aimed at spreading the benefits of industrial development to the countryside along the route of the highway.

In an interview with local journalists yesterday, Mr. Hun Sen said: "The idea for this came from the Cambodia-Singapore Cooperation Working Committee, which conducted and prepared the masterplan."

The committee was formed in September to boost relations between the two countries. It serves as a forum for dialogue between government officials from both countries to help reconstruct the war-ravaged country.

"Singapore had earlier done a study to reconstruct the seaport and airport. In connection with that, they have also studied and made a plan for the 'highway for development corridor,'" Mr. Hun Sen said.

"Right now, we are waiting for a team from Singapore to go to Cambodia and finalise the plan for further action; we will discuss who will manage the project, who will fund the project. According to discussions with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on Thursday, that group will go to Cambodia early next year. Singapore will also send another expert to further study an existing Singapore master plan to develop the seaport at Sihanoukville," Mr. Hun Sen said.

Asked if any Singapore firms will participate in the development of the "highway for development corridor", Mr. Hun Sen said: "So far as the form of participation is concerned, there will be many, many countries, because the highway is hundreds of kilometres long."

According to the study, the highway will have industries along its length, he added.

"We will discuss and work out further details and finalise it. But we will start with the development of this seaport and airport. The 'highway for development corridor' will come later."

In October, a 12-member team consisting of officials from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore [CAAS], the Port of Singapore Authority [PSA], and the Jurong Town Corporation [JTC] visited Cambodia. CAAS officials surveyed airports, PSA officials surveyed seaports, and the JTC examined sites suitable for the construction of an industrial zone.

Mr. Hun Sen said: "We would like to welcome further investments from the private sector in Singapore. I had very important discussion with Mr. Goh Chok Tong. We would also like the good advice of (Senior Minister) Mr. Lee Kuan Yew concerning the reconstruction of Cambodia."

Commenting on his country's needs, he said: "The top economic priority of Cambodia is to develop agriculture, communications and transport, electricity, provide professional training to workers and improve infrastructure. Infrastructure is basic for all investments, and without it we cannot develop our economy."

Mr. Hun Sen, who is on his first visit to Singapore, leaves this morning.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Reportedly To Meet Khieu Samphan

*BK1812060193 Phnom Penh AKP in English 0400
GMT 18 Dec 93*

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP December 18—Cambodian Co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh arrived in Bangkok Friday [17 December] aboard a special flight amid expectations that he would imminently meet with Khmer Rouge Chief Khieu Samphan to discuss a truce in Cambodia's civil combat, reports AFP.

Prince Ranariddh, son of Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk, was whisked away to an unidentified destination on his arrival at Bangkok Airport, an airport official said.

In Phnom Penh Thursday, Prince Ranariddh said he would meet "very soon" with Khieu Samphan, nominal head of the ultra-nationalist faction which has boycotted the democratic process in Cambodia.

The meeting is widely expected to take place Friday or Saturday at an undisclosed location.

King Sihanouk has recently spoken out in favour of negotiating with the Khmer Rouge for ending their armed conflict with the government, rather than adopt a military solution.

Prince Ranariddh stopped off in Thailand while en route to Beijing, where he is to visit his 71-year-old father who is recovering from cancer surgery.

The Khmer Rouge are blamed for the death of at least a million people in Cambodia during a five-year reign in the 1970's.

Proposals for Khmer Rouge participation in the Cambodian government have met with criticism from the West and the U.S. Assistant secretary of state for east asia and pacific affairs, Winston Lord, this week warned Phnom Penh that such involvement could affect world support for the Cambodian government.

Khmer Rouge radio blasted the warning as "barbaric interference in Cambodia's internal affairs."

A Western diplomat said in Bangkok that Prince Ranariddh is likely to offer the Khmer Rouge some subministerial slots in a meeting with Khieu Samphan.

In exchange, the diplomat said, Phnom Penh could not accept "less than a cease-fire and the handover of Pailin and Preah Vihear."

Pailin, in western Cambodia, is one of the last two Khmer Rouge strongholds and a ruby-mining centre instrumental in financing the Khmer Rouge war effort.

The temple of Preah Vihear in northern Cambodia was occupied by the Khmer Rouge in May.

But the diplomat said, "I don't expect any breakthrough this time. A dialogue can start, but it will take time."

Hun Sen Returns, Check-Up Shows 'Heart Problem'

*BK2012112093 Phnom Penh AKP in English 0955
GMT 20 Dec 93*

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP December 20—Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen returned to the capital Saturday, 18 December, after a five-day visit to Singapore to promote economic ties between Cambodia and Singapore.

During his stay in the island state, Hun Sen who was accompanied by his wife, Cabinet Ministers Sok An and Veng Sereivut and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Uch Kim-an, met with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, discussing the bilateral cooperation, including the training of Cambodian specialists, encouragement of Singapore investments in Cambodia, and the rehabilitation of Cambodian infrastructure, mainly the airport and sea port.

Goh is reported to express his hope that "despite Khmer Rouge problem...the Royal Government of Cambodia would try to strengthen peace and political stability in the country which is very important for national rehabilitation and development of Cambodia".

Cambodia recently signed a joint venture deal with Singapore airlines to set up a national carrier, Royal Air Cambodge, which should be operational in April.

Goh also accepted an invitation from Hun Sen to visit Cambodia in the near future.

Singapore is Cambodia's main trading partner.

Secretary of State for Information Khieu Kanharit said that Hun Sen had taken advantage of the five-day visit to have a "medical check-up."

The co-premier had a "heart problem," he said, adding "sometimes he nearly faints when he works hard."

Sirivut Denies Joint Border Commission Created

*BK1712081193 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0400 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Phnom Penh 17 Dec (AKP)—"The Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] will soon appoint its

extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand," said Prince Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, early this week.

There has been improvement in the relations between the two countries since Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri's recent visit to Cambodia to reinforce the cooperation between the two kingdoms, the two governments, and especially the two ministries.

The prince expressed his satisfaction with the reaffirmation made by the Thai foreign minister that the Thai Government will never recognize the Khmer Rouge and will never interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs.

Prince Norodom Sirivut denied a report carried by THE NATION and the BANGKOK POST saying that the Cambodian and Thai Governments will set up a joint border demarcation commission. It is irrelevant to establish such a commission since the two countries have already agreed to the worldwide recognized 1960 map, emphasized the prince.

During the Thai foreign minister's visit, the prince added, the two sides agreed to solve the issue of security along the common terrestrial and maritime borders of the two countries. They also discussed the problem of illegal entry of Thai fishing boats into Cambodia's sea and the issue of a Thai floating hotel in Phnom Penh. After discussing a visit to be made by the Thai prime minister to Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sirivut thanked Thailand for its assistance in the construction of a stretch of road linking Poipet and Sisophon and its donation of military uniforms to the Khmer Royal Armed Forces.

King Requests Resumption of Weekly Audiences

BK1612063493 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0356 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 16 Dec (AKP)—His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, has expressed the wish that on his return to Phnom Penh in March or April 1994 the weekly popular audiences be reinstated as in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's pre-1970 ruling party].

In a message sent on Tuesday, 14 December, to Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister; and Mr. Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC], his majesty the king stressed:

I have the honor to ask your permission for the reinstatement at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh of the weekly popular audiences that I used to give to our respected and beloved people in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum.

With your permission, these popular audiences (starting with my return to Cambodia in March or April 1994) will take place every Monday at the Royal Palace from 0900 to 1200 in the presence of the king's personal high

advisers; three representatives of the RGC—one from the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, one from the CPP [Cambodian People's Party], and one from the BLDP [Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party]; three representatives of the National Assembly—one from the FUNCINPEC, one from the CPP, and one from the BLDP; and the palace minister.

At each weekly popular audience five grievances presented by the citizens or groups of citizens of the kingdom will be examined. The five popular grievances will be chosen for each Monday according to their importance, seriousness, and urgency by the king's personal high advisers.

Ex-Pol Pot Officer Responsible for May Ambush

OW1912122393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Text] Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Dec. 19 KYODO—An ex-Khmer Rouge guerrilla officer has claimed responsibility for a May ambush that killed a Japanese civilian policeman and wounded four others involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia. Chon Chun, 42, former chief of the Pol Pot faction's 404 special unit, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE on December 9 that he ordered 19 guerrillas to open fire on a convoy of six United Nations vehicles on May 4.

"I ordered my comrades to shoot the convoy carrying the civilian policemen, killing or wounding them," said Chun in a town near the border of the Cambodian province of Banteay Meachey, where the ambush took place.

The Pol Pot faction has denied involvement in the shooting, which killed Haruyuki Takata, a 33-year-old officer with the Okayama prefectural police, near the town of Ampil. The rocket and automatic rifle assault took place 19 days before the U.N.-supervised general poll which elected parliament and the current coalition government. The convoy was carrying Japanese officers as well as Dutch and Indian peacekeepers.

Chun claimed initial machine-gun fire by the Dutch peacekeepers provoked his militia to shoot back. The Dutch peacekeepers "ignored" an attempt by two of his troops who were trying to force the convoy to halt, he said. The Dutch peacekeepers at the front of the six-vehicle convoy were acting as escorts. The Japanese civilian policemen were armed only with handguns due to Japanese legal constraints on the type of firearms they could carry.

At the time of the ambush, Chun's 500-troop 404 special unit had already disbanded in accordance with the 1991 Paris peace accord and he was commanding a militia of 19 guerrillas, he said.

"As we had heard that soldiers who disarmed qualify for U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) aid and because we did not receive any contact from UNTAC, we were awaiting the arrival of an UNTAC vehicle to ask questions directly," Chun said.

"When one of our comrades was shot in his right shoulder by the Dutch machine-gun fire, I ordered the comrades to shoot back at any vehicle," he said. "The second vehicle (in the convoy) stopped after its front window was shattered by the Dutch troops' fire," he said. "It was my men who killed the Japanese civilian policeman."

"We fled after seizing one of their vehicles following the assault that lasted for 10 to 15 minutes," he said.

"We sold off the vehicle to a merchant in Samrong for 50,000 baht (equivalent to some 220,000 yen) a week later and shared the money among the comrades," he said.

"We did not know that Japanese civilian policemen were inside the vehicles and were told later at night by a local resident that a Japanese was killed," he said. "A month later I reported the incident to my superior (in the Pol Pot faction) but was spared any punishment," he said.

At the time of the ambush, UNTAC announced that an armed group had abruptly fired rockets at the first vehicle driven by Dutch peacekeepers, forcing the convoy to halt. The group then attacked the whole convoy with firearms, UNTAC said. Chun said he joined the Khmer Rouge guerrillas in 1975. At present, he is a day laborer working in the Thai border area near Cambodia.

Laos

Deputy Premier Receives SRV Women's Delegation

BK1812092893 Vientiane KPL in English 0801 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Vientiane, December 18 (KPL)—Mr. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation, yesterday, received the visiting Women's Union of Vietnam led by its president, Mrs. Truong My Hoa.

Mr. Khamphoui Keoboualapha warmly welcomed Mrs. Truong My Hoa saying that the visit would contribute to the reinforcement of the special relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the two countries, particularly between the two women's organizations.

The deputy prime minister wished his guest a successful visit. The Vietnamese women's delegation is here as a guest of the Lao Women's Union.

Present at the meeting was Mr. Bui Van Thanh, Vietnamese ambassador to Laos.

Narcotics Control Discussed With Thai Delegation

BK1612090193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] A meeting between the delegation of Laos' National Committee for Narcotics Control led by Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign affairs minister and chairman of the committee, and the delegation of the Office of Narcotics Prevention and Suppression [ONPS] of the Kingdom of Thailand led by Police General Chaowalit Yotmani, secretary general of Thailand's ONPS, took place on the morning of 15 December in Vientiane.

At the meeting the two delegations informed each other of the results of their past operations and their present situation regarding narcotics. They also proposed action plans for the following years, with an emphasis placed on cooperation in solving narcotics problems in the two countries.

As a result, the Thai ONPS will organize five training courses on narcotics prevention and suppression work for Lao officials during a three-year period from 1994 to 1996 with an estimated total budget of 4.4 million baht. Two training courses will be held in 1994. The first, to be held from 16 to 29 January, will be on examining and developing curricula on politics and narcotics at primary, secondary, and college levels of education. The second, to be held from 20 to 30 April, will deal with setting guidelines for coordination in narcotics suppression between Laos and Thailand.

Apart from this, Thailand will also organize training courses in Thailand for Lao technicians on medical treatment and drug suppression. They will also help train Lao teachers to be able to teach students in schools about the adverse effect of narcotics. In addition, the Thai side will also provide Lao officials with training in agricultural work.

At 1000 on the same day, the Thai delegation paid a courtesy call on Phao Bounaphon, the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, on the occasion of their working visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Thai ONPS delegation arrived in Vientiane on 13 December for a six-day visit to Laos.

Minister Reports 'Very Low' Paddy Production

BK1612103393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Sian Saphangthong, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, granted an interview to reporters on the situation of paddy production in 1993 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

He said that this year's harvest production is turning out to be very low because of drought, pestilence, and a lack of rainfall in the late part of the production season in many provinces. These factors have adversely affected

the rice harvest and have thus had serious impact on the living conditions of the multi-ethnic Lao people in many localities, particularly in the provinces seriously affected by natural disasters. These are Savannakhet, Sayaboury, Bolikhamsai, Saravane, Houa Phan, and Luang Prabang Provinces.

According to a preliminary estimate of paddy production throughout the country in 1993, on a total of more than 350,000 hectares of ricefields where rice transplanting and harvesting were carried out, this year's total paddy production is only slightly more than 1.25 million metric tons. This figure accounts for only 85 percent of the target, set at 1.6 million tons, and is 16 percent lower than that of 1992. This year's paddy production is only 2.2 percent higher than that of 1991, when heavy floods caused serious damage to rice growing in central and southern provinces.

Bearing in mind the demand for rice throughout the country, the rice shortage will reach approximately 299,520 tons of paddy, or 179,712 tons of polished white rice.

Due to such low paddy production, the Lao Government as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has embarked on strenuous measures to boost the dry season rice production. Among the measures, efforts are to be made to grow dry season rice on 19,000 hectares with an estimated harvest of 70,000 tons of paddy. In addition, the growing of fruit trees, cash crops, and vegetables, as well as a wider degree of animal husbandry will also be encouraged. All this is aimed at bringing in additional earnings for families of farmers.

Meanwhile, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic would deem any assistance from the international community, either in supplies of food or various materials, that would help extend production as a major contribution toward relieving the distress and normalizing the living conditions of the people in the areas struck by natural disasters.

Philippines

Government To Pursue Case Against Westinghouse

BK1612014093 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Dec 93 p 19

[By Katherine R. Espina]

[Text] The negotiations between the government and Westinghouse Electric Corp. for an out-of-court settlement of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) bribery case collapsed yesterday.

"It is the sense of (Energy) Secretary (Delfin) Lazaro and I that we are just going in circles and that it is high time that we consider the matter as closed." Solicitor General Raul Goco, vice-chairman of the presidential committee (PC) on the BNPP, said.

Negotiations collapsed because government negotiators "found the terms and conditions requested by Westinghouse to be contrary to the country's dignity, interests, and laws," Lazaro, chairman of the presidential committee, said.

Goco said that the breakdown of talks primarily came about as Westinghouse refused to accept the Philippines' stand on the immunity issue.

Westinghouse wanted the Philippines to provide them as part of the agreement total immunity from any third party suit after a settlement agreement has been forged.

Goco explained that the U.S.-based firm demanded for the Philippines to indemnify it to the extent of the \$495 million gas turbines it offered to the Philippines as part of the settlement.

For instance if the government decides to sue Herminio Disini in the future who in turns involves Westinghouse and a court judges them both as guilty with a \$1 billion fine, the Philippines would deduct \$49.5 million of the \$1 billion claims, Goco explained.

The solicitor general said that the Philippines is not agreeable to providing such absolute immunity.

The PC-BNPP gave Westinghouse up to last week to respond to the Philippines stand. Robert Gross, Westinghouse regional manager left for the United States early last week to convince the board of the U.S. firm to accept the Philippines' offer but as of Saturday, there was no response from Gross.

According to Lazaro, other major areas of contention between the Philippines and Westinghouse are the following:

- Westinghouse wants the governing law concerning the settlement to be that of Pennsylvania but the PC-BNPP insists on the application of Philippine law;
- The Philippine government wants to expressly provide that the settlement does not apply to the discharge of cases filed or to be filed not only against Disini but also against members of the Marcos family. This is to prevent the Disini and Marcos families from benefiting indirectly from the settlement. Westinghouse did not agree to the government's stand.

The Philippines and Westinghouse last October have agreed on the commercial aspect of the settlement which involves a \$495 million worth of two-brand new gas turbines from Westinghouse.

President Ramos already approved the commercial aspect of the settlement subject to the closing of the documents between the parties.

As a result of the breakdown of talks, the Philippines will continue to pursue the Geneva arbitration case.

Lazaro said that the Philippine negotiating panel is preparing for the evidentiary hearings on the technical,

commercial and fraud claims in the arbitration proceeding. The hearings will be completed by the first half of 1994 and a decision is expected to be rendered by an Arbitral Tribunal by end 1994.

Also, on 20 December, the Philippines will file its appellate brief on the decision of the New Jersey Federal District Court last 4 October 1993 barring the Philippines from filing an appeal to the court's decision last May clearing Westinghouse of bribery charges unless the Philippines stops the harassment of Westinghouse witnesses.

Lazaro said that the National Power Corp. (Napocor) will also apply its earlier ban on the use of Westinghouse equipment and technology by private power companies.

The ban is supposed to be lifted once a settlement agreement is reached between the parties. Now the ban will be enforced.

The Philippines is expected to spend \$5 million more in litigation costs for 1994 alone with the collapse of the talks.

The PC-BNPP has spent a total of P1.19 billion [Philippine pesos] and \$45.2 million from January 1988 to 15 May 1993 in foreign legal counsel fees, foreign technical auditions and consultants, foreign incidental expenses, arbitration fee and foreign travel.

The PC-BNPP will ask the Senate's approval in a hearing today for a budget of P271.6 million next year, P203.1 million of which represents payment to foreign lawyers.

This is the eighth time that Westinghouse and the Philippines tried to reach an agreement but to no avail since the bribery case was filed by the Philippines against Westinghouse and Burns & Roe in the late 1980's.

Ramos Urges Closer ASEAN Information Ties

*BK1712073093 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 17 Dec 93*

[Text] President Ramos called yesterday for greater cooperation in the field of information among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN. We can attain progress only by pooling our expertise and resources in a spirit of mutual interdependence, quote unquote, the president said in a speech during the opening ceremonies of the third conference of ASEAN ministers responsible for information at Malacanang's Ceremonial Hall.

Mr. Ramos urged the ASEAN information ministers to speed up the implementation of projects related to the preservation of ASEAN culture and the exchange of news in the region. He also said the information should emphasize the protection of the environment and culture to achieve sustained progress. Mr. Ramos pointed out that the advances in information and technology should help raise the level of human achievement not just in our respective national communities but throughout the

world. It is precisely because of this vast potential to conquer the once formidable barriers of geography and time, race and culture, that we must redouble our efforts to ensure that this revolution in technology will result in providing the poor and underprivileged, the teeming masses of humanity that make up close to half of all the people in our region, with the resources and access to the fruits of progress, quote unquote, Mr. Ramos said.

He said that today, information is no longer the exclusive prerogative of a particular social class. In our time, it has become the patrimonial goal regardless of class, creed or color. It should therefore reflect as comprehensively and as accurately as possible the broad spectrum of society's concerns including those in the remotest communities, the president said.

Attending the conference are Home Affairs Minister Isa Bin Ibrahim of Brunei, Information Minister Harmoko of Indonesia, Information Minister Mohamed bin Rahmat, Datuk of Malaysia, [Philippine] Press Secretary Jesus Sison, Information Minister George Yeo of Singapore, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Surasak Thiamprasoet of Thailand and ASEAN Secretary-General Ajit Singh.

Mr. Ramos expressed optimism that the two-day conference, which is being held at the Westin Philippine Plaza, will lead to greater understanding among the ASEAN people.

Ramos Meets Islamic Organization's Chief

*BK2012035693 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 20 Dec 93*

[Text] President Ramos met with OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] Chief al-Gabid, during which he expressed appreciation for the organization's efforts to help resolve the Mindanao problem. The president informed al-Gabid that there will be a minimum presence of armed men outside of the meeting, instead that both sides will be allowed only 15 armed men each so as not to alarm the civilian population in the area. There will also be a joint check point 1 kilometer away from the capitol site [venue of government-Moro National Liberation Front meeting]. The president also said that the government is hopeful that the peace talks initiated by the government with other rebel groups will produce positive results.

CPP To Try Former High-Ranking Communists

*BK1612091793 Quezon City MALAYA in English
14 Dec 93 pp 1, 6*

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] Quezon Province—Four former high-ranking members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] will be tried by a

"people's court" for alleged crimes ranging from corruption to gangsterism, and sabotaging the underground movement.

Gregorio Rosal alias Ka [Comrade] Roger, CPP-NPA spokesman, identified them as Romulo Kintanar, Felimon Lagman, Ricardo Reyes, and Arturo Tabara.

The government has tagged Kintanar as former NPA [New People's Army] chief; Lagman, former head of the Manila-Rizal party committee; and Reyes and Tabara, central committee members. They are said to be leaders of a faction in the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] opposed to the leadership of exiled Jose Ma. Sison.

It would be the first time that high-ranking members of the party would be subjected to such a trial.

Lagman, who goes by the aliases Carlos Forte and Popoy, said the accusations were an "act of desperation" on the part of the rift-ridden CPP.

Rosal did not say when the trial will start or how it will be conducted. But sources said the procedure usually involves the participation of the accused and a jury of sectoral representatives in a formal proceeding.

Rosal, appointed party spokesman in October after having led the Melito Glor Command, also declined to say if the probable penalties would include execution.

He said the party has removed the four from the organization and that rumors of an execution were being spread by the accused themselves.

Releasing copies of the detailed accusations against the four former officials, Rosal's information bureau said Kintanar, who used the alias Daniel Bagani, committed "gangsterism, grave abuse of authority, corruption of partisan units and men."

He was also charged with "criminal neglect due to repeatedly serious violations of Party rules on security."

Kintanar was blamed for starting robbery and kidnap operations in Davao City in 1984 with the use of weapons and men of the NPA. "He recruited underworld characters and integrated them into these teams and, from time to time, coordinated their activities with crime syndicates," the document said.

The CPP said the former NPA chief accumulated millions of pesos from "widespread criminal activities" and kept this secret from the party leadership. In 1991, he allegedly "took personal control of P30 [Philippine pesos] million" the whereabouts of which have not been accounted for.

Upon his release from military detention in 1992, Kintanar reportedly resumed his "gangster activities" and even induced his former men into renewed criminal activities, including attempting holdups and the liquidation of policemen.

Kintanar was also accused of deliberately exposing the identities of members of the CPP's central committee as well as other party secrets, thereby putting his comrades and the entire party in extreme danger.

Said to have espoused a militarist line, Kintanar was blamed for the neglect of political work among the masses by pushing prematurely for the formation of regular companies. He was also identified as a participant in the AHOS [expansion unknown] campaign which resulted in the death of hundreds of victims suspected of being deep penetration agents (DPAs).

Reyes alias Paco Arguelles was accused of treachery by supplying the military with the real identities of central committee members. He was also "principally responsible" for spreading panic among party units over the existence of alleged DPAs and the resulting bloody purges.

Lagman was charged with using the CPP's name to "negotiate and collect money from reactionary politicians during the 1992 elections." Although millions of pesos was supposedly collected, no report was given at the CPP's leading organs.

Lagman was also accused of hatching the "disastrous plan that led to the Mendiola massacre" where farmers were killed by soldiers during a demonstration near Malacanang [presidential office]. Lagman and his group "turned the massacre into cannon fodder" simply to attract media attention, the CPP said.

In the last four months of 1990, Lagman allegedly connived with Reyes in a series of bus-burning and bombing activities in the hope of creating an insurrectionary explosion.

The longest list of accusations was against Tabara alias Victor del Mar, Pol, and Piloy.

He was accused of engaging in gangsterism in Manila-Rizal and the Visayas; "dark-to-dawn womanizing and drinking sprees in the beer gardens of Manila, Cebu, and Baguio," and putting the CPP in serious danger by causing the arrest of many cadres; disrupting entire party units; and, exposing sensitive internal information.

The CPP said it has removed the four from its ranks and ordered all party members to cut off official ties with them.

Rosal said in an interview with reporters, a reconciliation with the four is impossible. "Since the beginning, they never intended to reunite with the party," he said.

Rosal also criticized a reported plan of the Alex Boncayao Brigade [ABB] reactivated by the Manila-Rizal Party Committee to liquidate about 1,000 corrupt government officials and other persons. He said the ABB is misusing the name of the patriotic and revolutionary labor leader.

Rosal said, however, the CPP itself would be reestablishing the ABB. "Sa hinaharap, kung kailangan, ay pagpapasyahan ito ng partido [In the future, if necessary, this will be decided upon by the party]," he said.

Rosal also disputed government statements that the rift has weakened the underground movement. He said the party has been strengthening the weeding out of "rotten elements" who had failed to endure the sacrifices required in a struggle and have tired of revolution.

Rosal predicted the ultimate surrender to the government of former rebel leaders and compared them to Luis Taruc [head of People's Anti-Japanese Army] and the Lavas who took the line of parliamentary struggle, thereby destroying the revolutionary movement they used to lead.

Thailand

Officials React to Results of GATT Talks

Successful Talks Hailed

BK1712070193 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Dec 93 p 21

[Text] Government leaders and officials yesterday hailed the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks as an achievement that will help the Thai economy grow faster and boost farm prices. But they also warned that some adjustments would have to be made. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said that financial and other services would have to brace for increased competition as a result of market opening under the GATT deal.

Thai banks and companies in these sectors could be at a disadvantage when facing competition from multi nationals, but the Finance Minister has already started liberalisation and this has given Thai firms a head start in the adjustment process when compared to those in other countries, he said.

Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin predicted that Thailand's economy could grow faster by 1-2 percentage points as a result of the deal. Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon predicted substantial price increases for sugar, rice, maize and chicken, among the benefits for Thailand.

Talking to reporters at Parliament, he said that United Nations calculations predict that world sugar prices will rise by 10.6% or 550 baht per ton, reducing the current burden on consumers in Thailand. Domestic paddy prices should rise by 18.3% or 1,050 baht per ton, maize by 4.8% or 125 baht per ton, and broiler chicken by 1%, he said. The accord will be reviewed and put into legislation by each country and passed for ratification by the legislature, Mr Uthai said.

Afterwards, preparatory work on regulations will be carried out in all countries before the accord comes into

effect in January 1995. World trade rules will be made fairer and more clear-cut, and countries with less bargaining power like Thailand will be less vulnerable to pressure from large countries, he said.

"World trade rules will ease US pressure (on Thailand) on intellectual property and services, which will improve trade relations between Thailand and the US," he said.

Thailand will have good prospects for boosting its agricultural exports as a result of the reduction of agricultural subsidies in the EC and the US. The country will benefit from Japan and South Korea having lifted a ban on rice imports. The accord will bring down tariffs by 30% and Thailand should be able to expand its markets for exports of textiles, computer equipment and jewellery.

Mr Uthai, however conceded that the price of tapioca will be affected by cutbacks in subsidies in European Union (formerly European Community) partly as a result of trade accords and partly because of EU policy reforms. But he insisted that the inclusion of tapioca trade under GATT will not hurt Thailand.

The country is negotiating with the EU to lower tariffs on tapioca, and with South Korea for an improvement in Seoul's market access, he said. But sources in the Foreign Trade Department said they were unsure whether the negotiations will be successful because the Uruguay Round is now concluded.

Somchai Ruchuphan, director of the Fiscal Policy Office, predicted that the deal would add 2-3% to Thailand's export growth rate, and that the greatest benefit would be in the agricultural sector. He said farm produce would rise from 30% to 40% of total exports as a result of the agricultural liberalisation deal.

Mr Somchai added that Thailand's tariff reduction package almost meets the 33% reduction target set in the talks, and is more than for several ASEAN countries.

"Industrial products such as steel chemicals, computers and machinery have cuts of more than 80% from their original level of 30% to 50%," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said the conclusion of the world trade talks would mean an extra earning of about 7,000 million baht/year from the export of 4.5-5 million rice, based on global price of rice at about 1,000 baht/ton. It also meant the increase of sugar export and the decline of domestic price, and increase of tapioca export to 5.5 million tons/year.

For the fear that it would adversely affected the country's textile industry, he said that he was assured by textile exporters that Thai textile exports were very competitive because of their production and marketing capabilities.

Prime Minister Assesses Outcome

BK1812072793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Thailand is ready to cope with the impact of the GATT agreement adopted in Geneva recently. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai says the agreement poses both advantages and disadvantages to Thailand. The advantage will be in agriculture, while the service sector will be adversely affected somewhat. He has assigned Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak to take care of those matters.

The deputy prime minister told a press conference at Government House yesterday that Thailand will benefit mostly in agriculture and textiles. Rice exports will increase up to 8,000 million baht a year. Sugar exports will also increase, while the local price will be reduced. Thailand will benefit greatly from tapioca exports to the European Community because it is an important exporter. In the textile sector, Dr. Suphachai said Thailand could compete with other countries because of its capacity for production and marketing. In the service sector, Dr. Suphachai said Thailand might suffer a disadvantage. He said Thailand agreed to make progress in negotiations, but, it did not make clear the extent of its commitment. He said, however, Thailand will be ready to open its trade policies more and more to comply with the GATT agreement.

Trade Official on U.S. Market Access

BK1912052293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Dec 93 p A2

[Text] Thailand will still have to iron out market access issues with the United States despite last week's conclusion of the Uruguay Round, according to a senior trade official.

Kroekrai Chirapaet, director general of the Business Economics Department, said bilateral negotiations will be necessary by April 15 next year to improve market access terms, speaking at Don Muang Airport upon his return from Geneva yesterday. Ministers from 117 member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are scheduled to sign the new world trade agreement in mid-April in Morocco. GATT member countries have to conclude bilateral agreements with trading partners to exchange customs tariff cuts by Feb 15. Then the legal and regulation aspects are scheduled to be completed by March 31.

The negotiations on customs duties and terms cover both manufactured and agricultural goods as well as the service sector.

Kroekrai said the most important issue subject to the next round of negotiations is market access, including exchanges of zero tariffs. Thailand had already concluded separate agreements with Japan and the European Community, but not the United States or Canada.

The U.S. is said to have benefitted enormously from the agreement on agricultural trade under the new GATT agreement. The aspect which concerns Thailand in particular is rice.

The U.S., despite the push for reduced subsidies on rice exports, will not have to use 1986-1990 as the base years but 1991-1992, where the export subsidy was much higher—up from 45,000 tonnes to 300,000 tonnes. For vegetable oil, the amount will double from 1 million to 2 million tonnes which can be subsidised. For wheat it is 8.5 million tonnes.

Kroekrai said the U.S. previously did not want to change the base years but had to because of the compromise made with France. It is now much better off in terms of rice export subsidy capability. The EC emerged worse off for rice, but it is more interested in other commodities such as meat and dairy products.

The service sector remains a deadlock on the issues of the opening of the financial and insurance markets, basic infrastructure and ocean transport. The reason for the deadlock is the continuing insistence by the U.S. and the EC to grant market access on a discriminatory basis or on a reciprocal basis such as the U.S.-proposed two tier proposal. Such is against the principle of GATT under Most Favoured Nations scheme. Thailand has objected to any GATT principle being undermined, said Kroekrai. But a compromise is not ruled out. The U.S. has proposed giving flexibility to countries which cannot immediately implement the market access agreement, such as allowing a grace period.

Thailand has proposed under the new GATT agreement to cut tariffs on 3,500 items by an average 29 per cent. Thus the average tax rate on these items is 23 per cent.

Despite details to be ironed out, the GATT agreement last week has significant psychological impacts on world trade. There is a clearer system of settling trade disputes. Thailand should use this opportunity to reduce the cost of products to boost exports under the new trade environment, Kroekrai said.

Cambodian Leader Leaves Bangkok for Beijing

BK2012015193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Dec 93 p 6

[Text] CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh left Bangkok for Beijing yesterday without seeing Khmer Rouge [KR] leader Khieu Samphan as earlier speculated. Prince Ranariddh denied that he did not meet with Mr Khieu Samphan because the nominal Khmer Rouge leader did not address him as head of the government.

Khieu Samphan reportedly asked to talk with Prince Ranariddh as president of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party to stop the fighting and to

gain a role in the government. The Cambodian premier said his party alone could not solve problems with the Khmer Rouge.

"FUNCINPEC alone cannot, but as a government we could."

The prince said he would use his visit to China to consult his father King Norodom Sihanouk about talks with the Khmer Rouge which boycotted the United Nations-supervised election last May which led to the setting up of the government. King Sihanouk is undergoing medical treatment for cancer. A Thai official said Prince Ranariddh came to Bangkok for a medical check.

Eng Roland, who has been appointed as Cambodian ambassador to Thailand, said the Cambodian Embassy would be reopened next month. The embassy will be in charge of issuing visas for visitors to Cambodia, replacing Cambodia's visa office in Yannawa district. Mr Eng, who is vice chairman of the National Investment Committee said the embassy staff would include a commercial counsellor, tourism authorities and possibly a military attache if Bangkok sent one to Phnom Penh. His embassy will oversee Cambodian affairs in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

Parliamentary Leaders Meet PRC's Wu Xueqian

BK1712092793 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 14 Dec 93 p 12

[Text] Wu Xueqian, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], said that if China's three southwestern provinces of Yunnan, Sichuan, and Guizhou want to speed up their economic development, they have to open up themselves to the outside world and strengthen their economic cooperation with Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries. China and Thailand should further strengthen bilateral cooperation and jointly develop the quadrangle economic region to boost economic development and improve the living standards of the people.

Wu Xueqian made the above remarks during his meeting with Parliament President Marut Bunnak yesterday. Marut agreed that Thailand and China should strengthen bilateral cooperation and jointly develop the quadrangle economic region. He said that Asian countries have to strengthen their cooperation if they want to develop their economies.

Wu Xueqian conveyed the regards of Li Ruihuan, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, to Parliament President Marut. Wu Xueqian said that Sino-Thai relations had become closer and closer. Coming to Thailand is like visiting relatives.

Marut said that he met with Qiao Shi during his visit to China in April. He asked Wu Xueqian to convey his regards to Qiao Shi and Li Ruihuan. He hoped that Wu Xueqian's visit to Thailand will be successful.

During his meeting with Senate Speaker Michai Ruchuphan, Wu Xueqian expressed his hope that his visit to Thailand will help strengthen the friendly cooperation between the two countries and friendship between the two peoples. He said that Thailand's economic development rapidly had progressed. China can draw lessons from Thailand's economic achievements. Michai said that relations between Thailand and China smoothly had developed. He believed that bilateral relations and cooperation between the two nations will further strengthen following Wu Xueqian's visit.

Agreement Reached With SRV To Release Fishermen

BK1812081193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reported that the general consulate in Ho Chi Minh City has cooperated with Soc Trang Province for the release of about 51 Thai fishermen. As a result, the province agreed to let 49 fishermen return home without being fined, but Thailand must pay for their daily food allowances at the rate of U.S.\$1.50 per person starting from the day they were arrested. The released fishermen will leave Soc Trang on 21 December by Po Saeng Charoen boat after completion of interrogation and paperwork on their identification, employment, and debt clearance. They are scheduled to arrive in Songkhla Province on 24 December.

The Province of Soc Trang also announced that the province will cooperate with the general consulate in getting the release of Thai fishermen once the owners of their trawlers agree to pay ransoms to redeem the boats. The freed fishermen will not be fined, but Thailand will have to pay back the daily allowances. Fishermen still under custody are the crew of the following vessels: So Chek Niwamon, Chem Kaeo 99, Kittachai 6, So Srinmak 1, Cho Yunyong Sawat 3, Thongbai, Phuphong Nawa 2, and Thep Phunsi.

Meeting Held With Laos on Border Issues

BK1612115593 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Committee for Cooperation in Maintaining Peace Along the Thai-Lao Border held its third meeting on 15 December. According to Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, the supreme commander, both sides agreed that there has been good cooperation and understanding and earnest dedication among the parts of the mechanism for maintaining peace along the common border. This has resulted in a peaceful situation along the border and an effective solution of the problems at the local level under the responsibility of the provincial level committees.

Both sides agreed that Lao refugees and narcotics are important problems and that they will offer all possible support to facilitate the implementation of the policies

of the Thai and Lao Governments and international organizations, which will lead to true peace along the border.

Woranat added that the Lao side praised the Thai military for providing many important forms of aid, such as one-year training for 14 Lao Army medics. In 1994 the Thai military has a project to train more Lao Army medics and donate some medical equipment. All of this confirms that relations between the Thai and Lao Governments and their armed forces have developed constantly.

Burmese Minorities Flee Drive Against Khun Sa

BK1712104493 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] To date 639 members of the Burmese minority groups Tai Yai and Lisu have entered Thailand at Ban Piang Luang, Wiang Haeng District, Chiang Mai Province as they have learned about the arrival of Burmese soldiers to suppress the MTA [Mong Tai Army] group of Khun Sa. The Burmese soldiers have deployed on the bank of the Salween River about 30 km from Khun Sa's stronghold and are expected to launch an offensive after 20 December. The fleeing Burmese have been given shelter at the old hospital site in Ban Piang Luang, Fa Wiang In Temple, and at relatives' homes. Thai health officials have supplied disinfectant to the new arrivals to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

National Bank Governor Views Economic Growth

BK1612144793 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Bank of Thailand believes that Thai economic growth in 1994 will be greater than in the past year. Summing up the performance of the Thai economy in 1993, Wichit Suphinit, the Bank of Thailand governor, said that economic growth was 7.5 percent. This growth rate is satisfactory, taking into account the world economy. He said investment by the private sector was the catalyst for the year's growth, while agricultural production declined considerably. As a result, the Bank of Thailand estimates that in 1994 the Thai economy will grow at about 7.8 percent. Several local and foreign factors, such as private investment in various projects, the government's financial and monetary situation, the account surplus position, and lower agricultural investment will fuel the growth.

[Begin Wichit recording] It is estimated that the 1994 economic growth will be greater than in the past two years. This is due to local and foreign factors which are stronger than in the past. [end recording]

The governor also noted that among the issues which will need close monitoring are: development of the financial system, adjustment by the agricultural sector, savings mobilization, and the export industries' ability to compete.

Vietnam

Petrovietnam Criticizes U.S.-China Contract

BK1812151993 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 18—The contract on the exploration of oil and gas in the Tu Chinh Bank signed in May 1992 between the US Creston Energy Company and the Chinese National Offshore Oil Company [word indistinct] runs counter to international laws and violates Vietnam's sovereign rights because the Tu Chinh Bank area is [words indistinct] completely on the continental shelf of Vietnam.

Vietnam's stance on this question was reconfirmed during working sessions in Hanoi from December 13-15 between the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation (Petrovietnam) and Mr. R. Thompson, president of the Creston Energy Company. During the sessions, Petrovietnam officials stressed that the above-said 'contract' is entirely illegal and demanded that the Creston Energy Company should put an end to the contract. They added:

'All oil and gas activities in the Tu Chinh Bank area and other areas belonging to Vietnam's continental shelf should be taken on the basis of respect for the sovereign rights and national jurisdiction right of Vietnam as provided for in international laws and Vietnam's laws and in conformity with the practical cooperation in oil and gas exploration and exploitation in Vietnam.'

Government To Seek GATT Membership

BK2012105493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Vietnam has welcomed the GATT global trade deal. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said last Thursday that Vietnam hopes the success of the Uruguay Round will promote the development of world trade and the global economy and contribute to reducing the gap between rich and poor countries. Government officials involved in trade expect more opportunities for Vietnam to enter the world market. The spokesman said Vietnam was interested in the textile and garment market.

Vietnam is not a GATT member, but the government has declared its intention to join it.

'Mixed' Public Reaction to GATT Viewed

BK1812083993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, or GATT, was finally reached by 117 countries which took part in the Uruguay discussion. Here is our radio opinion:

Negotiations on the GATT took place over the past seven years. Some countries will benefit from it, some will not, and it may even affect their national interests. But the last moment, the United States and the European Community's dispute over navigation and aviation appeared unsolved. Within the European Community and Europe, dispute continues on the fabric and materials market. The United States and the European Community had to put aside the audio-visual issue. Japan and South Korea were forced to open their market for rice import. Those agreements were approved on 15 December.

Observers said that it was a temporary agreement. It does not yet have status with international organizations like the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund.

Public reaction was also been mixed. GATT Chief Mr. Peter Sutherland hailed this as a significant achievement that would bring benefit to all. It would help to generate more income and jobs and strengthen trade and investment.

Meanwhile, demonstrations waged by students, farmers, and environmentalists as well as politicians took place in Korea, Belgium, France, and India. The prime minister of South Korea had to submit his resignation in face of demonstrations of students and farmers against the decision to open Korea's rice market. This also causes damage to the Japanese prime minister's credibility.

Western Creditor Nations Reorganize Debt

*BK1712073893 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 17—The Paris Club of Western creditor nations and representatives of the Vietnamese Government met in Paris on December 13-14 to consider reorganisation of Vietnam's foreign debt.

The Vietnamese delegation, headed by Minister of Finance Ho Te, included Deputy Minister of Finance Pham Van Trong, State Bank Governor Le Van Chau, Ambassador to France Trinh Ngoc Thai and other senior specialists.

In his speech at the meeting, Minister Ho Te highlighted Vietnam's renovation and open-door policy in achievements in economic development and fighting against inflation, reforms of economic structure and management, encouragement of foreign investments, reduction of budget expenditure, reform in the tax system and improvement of the legal system.

Mr. Ho Te laid stress on Vietnam's [words indistinct] payments, particularly medium and long-term debts whose settlement would help re-establishing the balance of Vietnam's Finance Minister Ho Te and representatives of creditor nations signed a memorandum of understanding under which some countries are prepared to cancel half of the payments due over a period of 23 years

and other countries to consolidate Vietnamese debts at a favourable interest rate to reduce the amount of debt to be repaid by half. [sentence as received]

Part of Vietnam's debts may be used by creditor nations to finance programmes of environmental protection, aid or investment in Vietnam, the memorandum further says.

Commentary Views Russian Parliamentary Election

*BK1812094993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 16 Dec 93*

[Station Commentary]

[Text] We now bring you our radio editor's opinion on Russia's election result:

With the clear victory of the Liberal Democratic Party at the Sunday parliamentary election, Russian President Yeltsin had stated that he would use his authority in the framework of the new constitution to protect democracy. Meanwhile, the first prime minister, Mr. Gaidar, also a leader of the Choice of Russia Party had called for the setting up of an alliance with the Communists in the new parliament to gain what he called [words indistinct].

The victory of the Liberal Democratic Party has worried Republics of the former Soviet Union. A spokesman of Ukraine said the victory of the extremist in Russia shows that democracy was now out of reach in Russia and therefore Ukraine has the right to delay its elimination of nuclear weapons.

Similar concern is shown in the capitals of the three border republics. Estonian Prime Minister Laar said the victory of the Liberal Democratic Party reminded him of the situation in the early thirties in Germany.

The mass media of Finland has quoted Mr. Zhirinovsky, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party as saying that Finland may be immersed into Russia. A Bonn-based REUTER correspondent said Mr. Zhirinovsky had warned the use of nuclear weapon against Germany if the latter tries to intervene in the internal affairs of Russia. Mr. Zhirinovsky said he would not hesitate to make another Hiroshima or another Nagasaki to prevent Germany's intervention in Russia. Meanwhile, speaking at the press conference in Moscow, Mr. Zhirinovsky said he did not want to use force to reestablish the former Soviet Union but he warned that he would take economic sanctions to cope with those republics who maltreat ethnic minority people.

The victory of the Liberal Democratic Party was described by the press in Great Britain as a tragedy. While the Japanese press expressed concerns about the rearranging of forces and the need for mutual understanding between the Russian president and new members in the Russian Parliament.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher, said Mr. Zhirinovsky's viewpoints were not suitable to those of the United States. NATO Secretary General, Mr. (Wellnote), said at the press conference that NATO should maintain its vigilance of Russia.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Switzerland

*BK1712134193 Hanoi VNA in English 1325 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 17—An agreement on cooperation in chemical and environmental engineering was signed here yesterday between Vietnam and Switzerland.

Under the agreement, a project on chemical and environmental engineering cooperation will be conducted jointly by the University of Hanoi and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

The project is sponsored by the Swiss Government with a total budget of SF [Swiss francs] 1,100,000 for the first phase from 1993 to 1996. In this phase, the Swiss side will help Vietnam train scientists in environmental engineering and supply Hanoi University with necessary lab equipment.

In subsequent phases, the Swiss Government will continue to cooperate with Vietnam in this domain by supply equipment and scientific information and training personnel.

Delegation Promotes Cooperation With Poland

*BK1712074193 Hanoi VNA in English 0556 GMT
17 Dec 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 17—"Our visit to Vietnam this time is aimed at promoting the economic and commercial ties between Poland and Vietnam", said Mr Z.W. Okonski, deputy minister of economic cooperation with foreign countries, at a get-together with Vietnamese media workers here yesterday.

The get-together was arranged by Polish Charge d'Affaires to Vietnam Miroslaw Zaevski on the occasion of a visit to Vietnam by economic delegation of the Polish Government.

While here the delegation had working sessions with the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Energy, and Ministry of Heavy Industry to inquire into possibilities of cooperation between the two countries.

Reports on National Assembly Meetings Continue

Deputies Hear Ministers Speak

BK1712142193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Passages within single slantlines recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends: This morning the National Assembly [NA], in session at the Ba Dinh conference hall, continued to hear the heads of a number of ministries and sectors answer questions raised by National Assembly deputies."

Comrade Do Quoc Sam, minister of state and head of the State Planning Commission, started the morning session with "a report on a number of problems in the 1994 state plan, investment in various key projects for 1994, the structural policy on the division and management of capital construction, and the investment plan for various key economic zones in the country."

Next, Minister of Energy Thai Phung Le answered 10 questions raised by various deputies about the exploitation and use of electricity. After testifying about the reason why we have had to make up for losses in power management, the minister talked about the low-voltage electricity network and the rate for rural electricity consumption. As for the rate for rural electricity consumption, he said:

/For the most part we have failed to ensure operational standards for various low-voltage electricity networks. During operations, these networks are unsafe. Electricity losses continue. Local electricity management cadres have not been given standard training. The sale of electricity continues to be carried out mainly in the form of quota allocation. Many users do not have any electric meters, while electricity theft is on the increase. To effectively manage the rural electric networks and to provide electricity meters for users, we need a lot of money if we are to improve and develop the electricity networks./

Minister of Commerce Le Van Triet spoke before the National Assembly on the structural policy for managing import-export activities. "He pointed out the growth of import-export activities over the past three years and at the same time dealt with the need to stop indiscriminate importation of various types of motorbikes and sedans and machines, and equipment which is technically obsolete."

Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister of state and head of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, further reported on the situation regarding investment cooperation with foreign countries in the past few years, saying that "so far we have signed 329 cooperation and investment projects with foreign countries, involving a total of over \$7 billion."

After discussing the growth of this task as well as the initial results obtained, Comrade Dau Ngoc Xuan "pointed out some weaknesses to be used as lessons of experience for the period ahead. These weaknesses are: Approximately 15 percent of projects have had their licenses withdrawn. Laws and policies on cooperation and investment remain inadequate and are not strictly complied with."

As for the harmful practice of importing obsolete machines and equipment at high prices, he said:

/The prices for various equipment items imported are generally too high. Many obsolete items of equipment continue to be imported into our country. The reason for this is that responsible Vietnamese officials are ill-informed and lack necessary guidance from macro economic management agencies./

Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc reported on the losses in capital construction. He said:

/Inspections found that the rate of losses caused by corruption and the squandering of money in capital construction is alarming. This is because of a failure to comply with regulations on capital construction and also because of inadequate management policies./

Dear friends: After hearing the testimonies of the ministers, many deputies believed that these testimonies did not satisfy the people's demand for clarification. "Therefore, late in the morning session, 12 deputies raised new questions or repeated others, asking the relevant ministers for clarification. These questions called for clarification of the situation regarding electricity generation and consumption, the rate for rural electricity consumption, the losses and waste of money in capital construction, efforts to find more consumer markets, and the import of sedans, and so forth."

In this afternoon session, "the National Assembly heard Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare, speak on a number of issues raised by the deputies concerning the new wage system. This included the system of allowances for cadres and teachers of the education and public health sectors, the system of insurance for those who performed meritorious deeds for the revolution, and allowances for seniority in service. Minister Tran Dinh Hoan also answered questions raised by the deputies about the employment situation and some approaches for the years to come."

The National Assembly also "heard Phan Ngoc Tuong, minister of state and head of the government organization committee, answer questions raised by various deputies on the policy toward village- and ward-level cadres. They also heard Phan Van Vinh, deputy minister of finance, answer questions about the 1993 state budget and the 1994 budget estimate, and measures to increase revenue and reduce expenditures for the 1994 state budget.

"Also in this afternoon session, the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Court, Pham Hung, spoke on various corruption and smuggling trials."

According to the agenda, tomorrow the National Assembly will continue in session at the conference hall.

Commenque No. 7 Issued

BK1712152193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Commenque No. 7 issued by Ninth National Assembly's fourth session in Hanoi on 17 December]

[Text] The National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall on 17 December so that some members of the government and the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court could answer questions from National Assembly deputies. National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh directed the session.

Minister Do Quoc Sam, head of the State Planning Commission, answered questions regarding the evaluation of the socioeconomic situation, previous changes in the economic structure, structure and policy regarding the allocation and management of the capital construction fund, and investment planning for the construction of regional economic centers.

Energy Minister Thai Phung Ne answered questions on the loss suffered by the electricity service sector, the low-voltage electric network, the rate of rural electricity consumption, and construction of the 500-kilovolt National Electricity Transmission Line.

Commerce Minister Le Van Triet answered questions on the situation, structure, policies, measures, and management of import-export activities.

Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, head of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, answered questions on foreign investment and the management of foreign investment projects in our country.

Construction Minister Ngo Xuan Loc answered questions on the situation with capital construction and measures to overcome losses.

Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare, answered questions on the implementation of the new wage system and employment service for working people.

Minister Phan Ngoc Tuong, head of the Government Organization Committee, answered questions on policies regarding cadres at the village and ward levels.

Deputy Finance Minister Phan Van Vinh answered questions on issues relating to finance; the budget balance; the 1994 budget structure and structures; and policies, allocation, and management of the state budget.

Pham Hung, chief procurator of the Supreme People's Court, answered questions on issues related to the judicial service.

After listening to the answers of the government members and chief procurator, 14 National Assembly deputies raised some issues that need further clarification. They were Pham Quang Du and Le Minh Chau, of Ho Chi Minh City; Vo Tong Xuan, of Can Tho; Dang Thi

Thanh Huong, of Quang Ninh; Ha Thi Thu Suong, of Quang Nam-Da Nang; Nguyen Ngoc Tran, of An Giang; Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu, of Tien Giang; So Lay Tang, of Kon Tum; Bui Ngoc Thanh, of Lang Son; Nguyen Dinh Ngo, of Thua Thien-Hue; Vu Thi Ngoc Dau, of Thai Binh; Nguyen Trung Cang, of Dong Thap; Nguyen Thi Hong Minh, of Minh Hai; and Nguyen Phu Cuong, of Lang Son.

The National Assembly will resume its work at the conference hall on 18 December.

18 Dec Proceedings Reported

BK1812141593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Passages within single slantlines recorded]

[Summary] "Dear Friends: As we reported in previous newscasts, the atmosphere of yesterday's National Assembly [NA] session was fairly enthusiastic, showing the democratic and high sense of responsibility NA deputies have regarding the country's burning issues. Yesterday, after listening to testimonies from some government members, 14 deputies asked questions relating to the production and consumption of electricity; rural electricity rates; mistakes and irregular activities in import-export activities; and losses and waste in capital construction, the employment service, wage system, and so forth. Because more questions were asked and testimonies by ministers were not finished, the NA decided to extend the time for ministers to answer more questions in this morning."

In the first part of the morning, the NA continued to listen to the answers by some government members. In his speech, Construction Minister Thai Phung Ne answered questions relating to the production and service of our electricity industry. In answer to questions about rural electricity service, the minister said:

/First, we need to terminate private contracts for electricity service in the countryside. Second, we have to provide electricity meters to every household. Third, people working in rural electricity service must receive proper training. We have to gradually improve electricity loss in rural areas. And from now on, the electricity sector is responsible for the construction of power lines of more than 20 kilovolts to any village./

In his speech about the management of infrastructure construction, Minister Ngo Xuan Loc presented some measures to control the costs of infrastructure construction:

/We have to use the bidding method to improve our cost management. From now on, the Ministry of Construction will be responsible for the cost estimation of all key infrastructure projects./

"After the morning's testimonies, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet addressed the National Assembly. He offered his positive remarks on the NA discussion about the

government report on the 1993 socioeconomic situation and the orientations and duties for 1994. There were more than 70 deputies from 53 provinces and cities expressing their views about the report. And the NA also reserved one and a half days for government members to answer questions put forth by the NA deputies. The prime minister, however, remarked that some government members' were not totally focussed on his area of duty.

In acknowledging the NA contributions to the country's burning issues, the prime minister said:

/The government is very appreciative of the NA deputies' opinions. With a high sense of responsibility to their voters, many deputies suggested many measures for the government to overcome difficulties and weaknesses in its guidance and management. Moreover, the deputies also realized that to overcome these difficulties, it is the responsibility of both the government and everybody, including all echelons and departments from the central to grassroots levels and each NA deputy and voter. The government will concretize the NA opinions on its programs of action in 1994./

"In his statement, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also held that the extravagant spending in state organs and organizations needs to be stopped quickly before it causes severe damage to the nation. He stated that it is necessary to launch a campaign against prodigality in the entire society as well as the party and state organs from the central to local levels.

"The prime minister suggested two things to the National Assembly. First, the deputies need to supervise the government's activities and second, the National Assembly should urge the public to practice thrift.

"About the fight against corruption and smuggling, the prime minister held that we must have tough measures to deal with these evil practices. In the past, law enforcement agencies have not been strict with corruption and smuggling cases and many of these cases have been exempted from legal action.

"Dear friend, in the afternoon, Dang Huu, minister of science, technology, and environment presented a government report on the draft bill for environment protection. Vu Dinh Cu, chairman of the NA Committee for Science, Technology, and Environment read the committee's investigative report on the draft bill.

"Minister Do Quoc Sam, head of the State Planning Commission, presented a government report on the draft bill on business bankruptcy. Tran Van Nhan, vice chairman of the NA Committee for Economic and State Budget, read an investigative report by his committee on this draft bill.

"Justice Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc presented a government report on the draft bill on amendment of the Law on the Organization of the People's Courts. Nguyen Van

Yeu, vice chairman of the NA Legislation Committee, read the committee's investigative report on this draft bill.

"Tomorrow, Sunday, the National Assembly will be in recess."

Communiqué No. 8 Issued

BK1812161693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Communiqué No. 8 issued by Ninth National Assembly's Fourth Session in Hanoi on 18 December]

[Text] The National Assembly held its plenary session in the conference hall on 18 December. In the morning, under National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh's direction, government members continued to answer questions raised by the National Assembly deputies on the 17 December session.

Minister Do Quoc Sam, head of the State Planning Commission, testified on the construction of the 1A National Highway from Nghe An to Khanh Hoa. Construction Minister Thai Phung Ne answered questions relating to the compensation for financial losses in electricity service, electricity rates in rural areas, the construction of the 500 kilovolt National Electricity Transmission Line, and the current situation of electricity resources.

Commerce Minister Le Van Triet presented measures to increase goods exports and improve markets for our agricultural products. He also reported on import-export activities and the quota for the recent export of timber. Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, head of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, answered questions about the committee's working procedure in considering foreign investment projects in our country and the import of foreign technology to Vietnam.

Construction Minister Ngo Xuan Loc answered questions relating to the losses of funds and corruption in capital construction, the current allocation of capital construction funds, the responsibility of the Construction Ministry and other related organs in ensuring the good quality of construction projects, the promulgation of construction regulations after the issuance of Directive No. 171 by the government, and the management process of different stages of infrastructure construction projects. Deputy Finance Minister Phan Van Vinh answered questions relating to the payment of debts owed to certain Vietnamese people in the last two wars and socioeconomic assistance to the Khmer people.

After the government members's testimony, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet delivered a speech welcoming the contribution of views by the National Assembly deputies

to the government's activities. He also explained some other issues. He particularly stressed the responsibility of the government, echelons, levels, and social organizations in the practice of thrift and in the fight against prodigality, corruption, smuggling, and other social evils. He also suggested some urgent measures to quickly eliminate these serious evils.

In the afternoon, under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy, Dang Huu, minister of science, technology, and environment presented a government report on the draft bill for environment protection. Vu Dinh Cu, chairman of the NA Committee for Science, Technology, and Environment, read the committee's investigative report on the draft bill.

Minister Do Quoc Sam, head of the State Planning Commission, presented a government report on the draft bill on business bankruptcy. Tran Van Nhan, vice chairman of the NA Committee for Economic and State Budget, read the committee's investigative report on this draft bill.

Justice Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc presented a government report on the draft bill on the amendment of the Law on the Organization of the People's Courts. Nguyen Van Yeu, vice chairman of the NA Legislation Committee, read the committee's investigative report on this draft bill.

On 21 December, National Assembly deputies will hold group discussions on the draft bill for environment protection, the draft bill on business bankruptcy, and the draft bill on amendment of the Law on the Organization of the People's Courts.

Government Officials Arrested, Heroin Seized

BK2012092093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 20 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 20 (AFP)—Six Vietnamese, including two government officials, have been arrested following the discovery of 129 kilos (284 pounds) of heroin, a report said Monday, amid a national crackdown on corruption.

The official SAIGON NEWSREADER said the drugs were found in a car being driven by two government employees of northern Lai Chau Province.

Police arrested the pair as well as four employees of a state-owned gold trading shop in the northern city of Dien Bien Phu, who were detained for using store funds to finance the drug shipment, it said.

The arrest come amid a government anti-corruption and anti-smuggling campaign which is partly aimed at drug traffickers.

Australia

Treasurer John Dawkins Announces Resignation

*LD1712092093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0800 GMT 17 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] In a shock move, Australia's chief economic minister, Treasurer John Dawkins, has resigned. Mark Tamhane reports Mr. Dawkins says he will retire to the back bench before leaving Parliament sometime before the next election:

[Tamhane] Forty-six-year-old John Dawkins has represented the seat of Fremantle in Western Australia for 19 and a half years. He's been government minister since the Labor Party came to power in 1983. [passage omitted]

John Dawkin's performance as treasurer has been questioned by some political observers after difficult negotiations to get this year's budget approved by Parliament. [passage omitted]

The treasurer announced his resignation in Parliament a short time ago:

[Begin Dawkins recording] After 20 years in public life, I think I have given, I have given all I can give, and I think I now look forward to other pursuits, which I am sure will be equally enjoyable. And I will look back on this period as a minister in the greatest government I believe Australia has ever had. I have been [minister] with a great deal of pride, a great deal of satisfaction, and a great deal of happiness. [end recording]

[Tamhane] At this stage, it is unclear who will replace Mr. Dawkins as treasurer.

Mineral Exports Expected To Earn \$31 Billion

*BK1412055293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 14 Dec 93*

[Text] Australia's export earnings from mineral resources have been forecast to rise by about seven percent this financial year to more than \$31 billion [Australian dollars]. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics says most of the increase is expected to come from higher export earnings from gold, coal, and crude oil. The bureau says rural export earnings are likely to fall two percent this financial year partly because of falls in export prices for wool and grain.

Editorial Views Political Crisis in Fiji

*BK1712111393 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English
1 Dec 93 p 10*

[Editorial: "Rabuka Chooses the Ballot Box"]

[Text] An early general election is the best way to resolve the political crisis in Fiji, and its leaders have done well

to move decisively to that option. The Government, only 18 months into its five-year term, suffered a fatal blow on Monday [29 November] when seven dissident MPs voted with the Opposition to defeat its draft 1994 budget. Within hours, the Prime Minister, Mr Sitiveni Rabuka, announced in a television address to the nation that he had asked the acting President, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, to dissolve Parliament on January 19, with an election to follow. Yesterday, Ratu Mara rejected the constitutional alternative of trying to keep the Government going under a new prime minister, and confirmed the arrangements for a snap election.

These were the correct procedures in the circumstances—and what most parliamentary democracies would follow as a matter of course. But Fiji, largely because of Mr Rabuka, is no ordinary democracy. As an army commander, he twice used the military to remove governments he disapproved of, and a system of elected governments was only restored last year. The decision to go to an election assumes a greater significance because it shows a readiness to use normal procedures in a situation that until recently has not been normal. It also shows Mr Rabuka is willing to back his political instincts, because at this stage he has the best chance of winning the election.

The dissident MPs in Mr Rabuka's party rejected the budget because in their view it contained unpopular measures to lift revenue yet made little effort to rein in the deficit. Prominent among them is Mr Josevata Kamikamica, who skillfully guided Fiji's economy through a devastating coup-induced recession but lost a contest for leadership of the Fijian Political Party after the May 1992 election. Mr Kamikamica hoped Ratu Mara would appoint a new prime minister without the need for new elections. Constitutionally, that might have been possible—the president needs only to satisfy himself a nominee has the confidence of a majority of Parliament. But politically, it was untenable. Mr Rabuka still has the support of most MPs in the Parliament's biggest party. He also remains highly popular among indigenous Fijians.

The election will be fought under the racially weighted Constitution, underwritten by coup. Mr Rabuka has shown little interest in honouring his undertaking to revise the Constitution into a less racist form. It discriminates against ethnic Indians, who comprise about half the population but can only vote in a minority of seats. Fijian democracy, young and fragile as it is, is defective in that respect. But Fiji is a harmonious enough country for there still to be hope that the political system could evolve into a more acceptable form. Certainly, stable and peaceful elections would not be inconsistent with that hope.

